

## THE TIMES Tomorrow

Lost novel  
The first publication  
of a D. H. Lawrence work  
unknown for 50 years



**Horsing about**  
Polo is a baffling, quirky game but its glamour is attracting more and more fans

**Sea change**  
The Mediterranean is badly polluted but measures are being taken to improve it

**Olympian view**  
David Miller looks at the Games in Los Angeles, the sport, the players, and the commerce

## Portfolio

The weekly £20,000 and the daily £2,000 can both be won in tomorrow's Times portfolio competition. Yesterday's £2,000 prize was shared by two readers. Mr Spencer Freeman, a publishing executive, of Kings Avenue, Eastbourne, and Mrs Fiona Leigh, of Western Road, Stafford, each showed a dividend of +37 points.

The Portfolio list, page 14, rules and how to play, information service, back page.

## Midland profits halved

Midland Bank's interim profits slumped by nearly half to £25m. The decline was entirely due to the problems at the bank's Californian subsidiary, Crocker National Corporation.

ICI's half-yearly profits also slumped, to £552m from £298m last time. Page 15

## MI5 inquiry call

A group of retired senior intelligence officers is to press ministers for an inquiry into the performance of the secret services since 1945. Back page

## Trade surplus

Britain's balance of payments swung back into the black last month when the surplus on the current account was about £103m reflecting a deficit of only £148m on visible trade and an estimated surplus of £250m on "invisibles". Page 15

## Pollution protest

A chorus of protests has obliged the West German Government to delay approval of a new coal-burning power station while it considers ways of reducing air pollution. Page 7

## Tory appeal

Mr Ian Gibson, Conservative leader of Portsmouth city council, has announced that he intends to appeal against the Government decision to raise the cap his authority. Page 2

## Test fightback

The West Indies recovered from 70 for four to 273 for five in the fourth Test match against England at Old Trafford as Greenidge and Dujon scored centuries. Page 20

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# Coal board's offer rejected, strike may be stepped up

From Paul Rostledge, Labour Editor, Sheffield

Miners' leaders yesterday rejected the National Coal Board's peace plan on pit closures and rejected their delegate conference in a move to intensify the 20-week-old strike.

The conference, on August 10, will be urged to "extend the campaign within the coalfields and outside", Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, disclosed after a meeting in Sheffield of his 24-man executive.

But his curt, repeated, "no comment" to questions about a possible resumption of the peace process with the coal board heightened speculation that there could be further negotiations before the union digs in for a strike lasting into the winter.

Mr Stanley Orme, MP for Salford East and Labour's energy spokesman, has been working behind the scenes to bring the two sides together after the breakdown of talks last week. Mr Scargill yesterday insisted that he was ready for "sensible discussions" at any time.

His hard-line negotiating

position remains unchanged, however. "All the pits will have to be retained. That has not changed and it will not change. The NUM does not regard any pit as uneconomic", he said.

"We want to negotiate a solution to this problem and get Britain's miners back to work. But we want to do that on the basis that the pit closure programme is withdrawn."

The board negotiators take the word "beneficial" out of the draft definition of an unworkable pit, otherwise there was an "irreconcilable" difference between the two sides, Mr Scargill added.

"We are not talking about a work. We are talking about a philosophy, an ideology; either we accept full scale batonry of this industry or accept that our pits and jobs are retained."

His undiminished catalogue of demands suggests that prospects for negotiations are not good, and it is not yet certain that Mr Orme's peace-making efforts will result in a joint meeting in the fortnight before the conference takes place.

Mr Scargill continues to insist that the Government is directly

involved in the talks, citing parliamentary exchanges between Mr Alex Eadie, Labour MP for Midlothian, and Mr Giles Shaw, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Energy.

Mr Shaw had "let the proverbial cat out of the bag", Mr Scargill said, by stating that the miners' union "must accept that the closure of uneconomic pits is an essential ingredient to the restructuring of the industry."

The miners' president also said that the coal board's annual report, published yesterday and disclosing a deficit of £875m, was "an unmitigated disaster".

He went on: "If I were Ian MacGregor I would be extremely concerned that my stewardship has proved so disastrous."

He sought to laugh off the threat of a drift back to work, promoted by coal board persuasion and the mysterious Nottinghamshire moderate who calls himself "Silver Birch".

"The NUM leadership are as confident today as they have ever been that we will win this dispute."

Violence condemned, page 2

## NCB insolvent, says Walker

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The National Coal Board is insolvent and kept in operation only by Government subsidies worth the equivalent of £130 a week, Mr Walker said. More than £6 is lost on every tonne of coal produced.

In its last financial year, from April 1983 to April 1984, the NCB lost £875m, £200m directly attributable to 19 weeks of the miners' overtime ban and two full weeks of strike action.

In the Commons yesterday, Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy said that the NCB was being kept in existence only by Government subsidies.

He said: "The loss of the

industry by the strike and overtime ban. The net represents an underlying imbalance between the board's costs and revenues. A substantial part of it was caused by a relatively small number of high-cost pits," he said in a parliamentary answer.

"Total support from the taxpayer to the coal industry in 1983-84 in the form of grants to the NCB's rapid payments, to redundant miners was a massive £1.3 billion."

"The results show that the NCB is insolvent. The NCB is also insolvent only because the Government is subsidising it."

underwrite its losses while the industry turns itself round."

The NCB losses are made up of £595m on deep-mined coal - the equivalent to a loss of £6.61 on every tonne of coal it produces. The cost of redundancies after European Community grants was £74m and interest charges accounted for £467m.

Only the NCB's open-cast mines showed a profit, £211m compared with £192m the year before. The open-cast mines are working during the present dispute.

In the previous year operating losses were £128m, interest

## Minster repairs to cost £3m

Insurance cover will pay for the full cost of repairing the fire-damaged York Minster it was announced yesterday. The ecclesiastical insurance office based in Gloucester have confirmed that they expect to meet a claim in excess of £3m for damage caused to the south transept in the fire on July 9.

"Thousands of pounds in donations are pouring in to the Minster Fire Appeal Fund but yesterday the High Steward of York Minster, the Marquis of Normandy, promised that the money would be put to good use."

He said: "It is almost certain that in carrying out the reinstatement the Dean and Chapter wish to improve upon the method of construction and also make use of the latest techniques in fire suppression."

"In addition the extent and severity of the fire have indicated the urgent need to explore the possibility of undertaking similar safeguarding works to other roofs of the Minster," he said.

© The Minster authorities are free to use the gift of money that have poured in for the restoration of the building as they wish, provided it is in accordance with the purposes of the York Minster Fund, a registered charitable trust (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

## STC in £35.7m bid to take over ICL

By Jeremy Warner

Standard Telephones and Cables yesterday began a takeover battle with a £35.7m bid for ICL, Britain's largest independent computer manufacturer.

The offer was condemned as "totally inadequate" by the ICL board.

The surprise shares or cash bid came after STC, a leading telecommunications equipment manufacturer, snapped up nearly 10 per cent of ICL's shares in a stock market dawn raid.

STC will almost certainly have to raise its terms to win, according to the city and rival bidders are likely to emerge. STC is offering two of its shares for every seven of ICL, underwritten for cash at 77p.

ICL was rescued from serious financial difficulties by the Government 3½ years ago with a £210m package of support.

Since then it has made a strong recovery under its chief executive, Mr Robb Wilmut, aged 39. He was recently joined by Sir Michael Edwards, former head of BT, as chairman.

STC said that a combination of the two companies would create a strong British group with the financial and commercial resources to meet research and development needs.

Sir Kenneth Corfield, STC chairman, said the bid was "a friendly one" which was intended to create a new force in the international market for information technology.

A merger between the two companies would create a group with annual sales of nearly £2 billion and more than 51,000 employees.

The bid drew sharp criticism from MPs. In the Commons yesterday because of STC's strong connections with International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation in the United States.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Opposition leader, asked the Prime Minister for an assurance that ICL would remain in British control.

STC used to be a subsidiary of ITT but in recent years the American company has reduced its shareholding substantially and now owns less than 36 per cent of the company.

Kenneth Fleet, page 15



The Duchess of Kent and Princess Margaret at yesterday's memorial service in London for Lord Astor of Hever, former owner of The Times. The service heard Lord Astor described as a "man of courage". Service page 12. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

## Army votes boost Israel right

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The chances of another right-wing government in Israel increased yesterday when the soldiers' vote gave an extra seat to the nationalist Techia Party, giving it five in all, and took away one that had been projected for Labour, leaving it with 44.

With all the votes now counted, it looks as if the ruling Likud, with 41 seats and its natural affinity with the religious parties, will have an easier task of putting together a coalition than Labour. But weeks of negotiations are still expected.

Likud leaders were quick to claim that the soldiers' vote had improved their prospects, while at Labour Party headquarters in Tel Aviv no one could be found to comment.

The soldiers' returns included votes from the occupying army in southern Lebanon where the turnout was 90 per cent.

Mr Maim Corfu, a Likud minister claimed that the result was "a morale booster" when intensive coalition negotiations was under way. He said that the fact that 50 per cent of the troops had voted either Likud or Techia showed that claims of army dissatisfaction over the Lebanon war were "hogwash".

There are strong grounds for arguing that such action would

## EEC tries to block British rebate again

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

The European Parliament votes today on whether Britain's 1983 EEC budget rebate of £457m should be frozen yet again.

The money was supposed to have been released by the Parliament's own budget committee earlier this month. It was blocked by the MEPs at the end of last year until there was a settlement of the long-running budget dispute with Britain.

This was supposed to have been resolved at the European summit in Fontainebleau, and it was on the strength of that agreement that the budget committee fixed the money. All that was then needed technically was the signature of the Parliament president on the official minutes recording the committee's decision.

Before the signature could be added the brand new budget argument with Britain erupted. This is over Britain's refusal to let the Community have more money than can legally be raised this year to pay its debts.

In this week's Parliament session Britain has been roundly criticized, and an amendment has been tabled for voting today which seeks to block the money until a supplementary budget is agreed by the kind Britain is refusing to allow.

There are strong grounds for arguing that such action would

be illegal under community law, but a challenge through the European Court would take many months. The dispute could not be resolved legally until after it ceased to have any relevance.

The blocking amendment has very wide support in the Parliament. Britain's best chance of seeing it defeated lies in the fact that traditionally most MEPs go home during the last day of the session and there is rarely a quorum present.

British MEPs alone have the reputation of staying on for the last day, and they are not going to vote for a continued freeze on the payment.

British ministers, unmoved yesterday by the criticism of their refusal to agree to a supplementary EEC budget, described as "irresponsible" the possibility of the repayment of the British rebate being delayed by the European Parliament until September or even later (Our Political Editor writes).

The bad feeling towards Britain displayed in Strasbourg was cited by some MPs at Westminster as further evidence that the achievements of the Fontainebleau summit last month may have been oversold by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Socialists upset, Page 6

## Hepworth sculpture found in scrapyard

From Peter Davenport, Leeds

The stolen Barbara Hepworth bronze sculptures were recovered yesterday from a lorry parked in a Leeds scrapyard, and police believe they were within hours of being melted down.

Last night, the five figures, together with a section from a sixth, from the "Family of Man" group, were being examined by fingerprint experts, but they appeared to be undamaged. They were discovered following a tip-off to police.

Only hours earlier, the £5,000 reward offered when the figures were stolen from the Yorkshire

Sculpture Park, near Wakefield, had been doubted by the insurance company.

The man in charge of the inquiry, Detective Superintendent Walter Cowman, said: "We are delighted to have recovered them intact."

Mr Peter Murray, director of the park, said in a "burst of news" and Mr Brian Smith, curator of the Barbara Hepworth Museum at St Ives, Cornwall, where the sculptor lived for more than 30 years, said that any minor scratches could be removed. Police were questioning a man.

## Hazards galore on French roads to the sun

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The great French summer holiday rush, which starts today, will be spread out over a longer period this year, as the traditional August 1 departure date falls on a Wednesday. There are, therefore, likely to be fewer traffic jams and accidents, but other hazards may confront the tourists.

The estimated 10 million drivers who will take to the roads over the next 10 days are expected to leave in two waves, with peaks today and tomorrow, and again next Friday and Saturday. Coaches carrying more than 15 children have been banned from using motorways or main trunk roads on these days between 3pm on the Friday and 3pm on Saturday.

An average of 32 people are killed on French roads every day, double the number in Britain. Last summer 4,530 people were killed and more than 100,000 injured.

A different kind of danger awaits holidaymakers in the Card or Vaucluse in the south of France, particularly if they

are foreigners and are driving at night. A new brand of highwayman, first seen last summer, has just made his reappearance with attacks reported on five cars, all foreign-registered.

Typically, a gang of armed masked youths overtake their victim, usually in the small hours, forcing the driver off the road. They then jump out of their car, brandishing their weapons and demanding money, while terrorizing their victims by smashing their car's windscreen and headlights and slashing their tyres.

The Basque country does not appear very welcoming either this year. The Ipparetarak, the French equivalent of the Spanish Basque terrorist organization, ETA, has launched an anti-tourist campaign, which included slashing the tyres of 80 tourist cars in the border town of St Jean de Luz earlier this month.

Small wonder that hoteliers in the Basque country are reporting a "catastrophic" season. Hotel bookings are well

down in Corsica, too, where the Corsican separatists are expected to step up their bombing campaign in the lead up to the elections for the regional assembly on August 12.

But danger and even death can also lurk in the apparently most peaceful areas of France. A farceur deep in the lair, countryside, in the Rhône-Alpes region, angered at finding two boys camping illegally on his land last month, promptly shot one of them dead. Campers are strongly advised to stick to authorized campsites.

The good news for campers

Orange and Montpellier 9h-15h; N7 between Naves and Moulins 10h-15h; N20 south of Orleans 8h-10h; N23 between Le Mans and Angers 9h-12h.

All times given in French Summer Time, which is one hour later than BST. British tourists crossing the Channel today or tomorrow are advised either to start their journey from France first thing this morning or to leave it until tomorrow afternoon.

It is that most sites have much more room than usual. The only areas where sites are reported to be full and are expected to remain that way throughout most of August are the Brittany coast around St Malo, the Normandy coast between Cherbourg and Le Havre; the Pas de Calais between Boulogne and Dunkirk; the Loire valley and the whole of the Languedoc-Roussillon coast and Bouches-du-Rhône area.

Elsewhere, spaces are reported to be available, even in the usually congested sites along the Atlantic coast, the

Dordogne valley and even in most places along the Côte d'Azur.

A Ministry of Health report on pollution indicates that nearly a quarter of French coast, sea and one-third of fresh water bathing sites fail to meet the health standards laid down by the EEC as suitable for bathing.

The dirtiest water is found all along the northern coast from St Malo to Dunkirk, while the cleanest is along the Atlantic coast south of Nantes and, surprisingly, all along the Mediterranean coast, with the exception of the short stretch between Cannes and Nice. Great efforts have been made to stop pollution on the Côte d'Azur.

However, this part of the coast, and indeed the whole of the Gulf of Genoa, has been suffering from another scourge: a mass invasion of stinging Medusa jellyfish, largely blamed on the virtual disappearance of the sea turtle, which lives off the jellyfish.



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## Military bases security criticized

By Richard Evans

A highly critical report on security at Britain's military installations was published by an all-party Commons select committee yesterday after an investigation hampered in part by the Ministry of Defence.

The lack of official cooperation afforded to MPs, particularly at the start of their three-months inquiry, contributed to Sir Humphrey Atkins, chairman of the defence committee and a former Cabinet minister, complaining officially to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence.

The MPs' report which concludes that government spending cuts have led to a deterioration of security at defence establishments, is liberally spread with asterisks denoting passages and details omitted at the MoD's specific request.

"This process was by no means an easy one," the MPs say pointedly. "While we share the ministry's view that it is wrong to advertise shortcomings in security arrangements, we do not believe that those responsible for such shortcomings should automatically be shielded from public criticism."

The Conservative-dominated committee, which accuses the ministry of being unnecessarily reticent in providing certain classified information says it was concerned at apparent shortcomings in security arrangements at a number of bases visited.

"We recommend that the ministry consider them with particular urgency," the report says.

Some criticisms of individual bases and establishments are asterisked out, but the MPs say they were appalled by security at the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield, "which suggested neglect and complacency over a number of years".

The MPs bitterly criticized the Government's plans, since abandoned, to employ private security firms to guard the Royal Ordnance factories when they are privatized later this year.

And they insist that the Government's newly-proposed in-house guard force should only replace Ministry of Defence police at the least sensitive of the 11 factories being sold off.

The huge increase in crime on Crown property, including attempts to steal arms and explosives, suggests that the strength of the MoD police has been reduced to levels which are "inconsistent with reasonable standards of security."

"Even without the anti-nuclear demonstrations, we believe that the Government's spending cuts would have led to deterioration in the quality of security at defence establishments. If it is to escape serious

Continued on back page, col 5



## Public to have more say over pollution

New legislation on water pollution will put at the public's disposal "all the paraphernalia of control" that now apply to the planning of land-based development, the Department of the Environment said yesterday (Tony Samstag writes).

Enlarging on its announcement that Part II of the Control of Pollution Act, 1974, was to come into force after 10 years of deliberation, the department emphasized that water authorities would be obliged to advise all applications for consent by potential dischargers into rivers, lakes, coastal and some underground waters.

## Lords reject higher mileage

The House of Lords yesterday rejected a new mileage allowance, accepted by the Commons only last Friday, which would have offered them £7,800 a year for 20,000 miles.

The 39p a mile rate applies to cars of more than 2300cc, but the Lords, who receive the allowance for travel between home and House, accepted an amendment from the Liberal peer, Lord Tordoff, that they should confine themselves to a uniform rate of 25.9p for the first 20,000 miles, and 14.7p for further mileage.

## Shipping slump persists

Britain's shipping earnings dropped by £500m in the past three years as the fleet continued to shrink and the world shipping slump persisted.

The net contribution of UK ships in 1983 was £548m compared with £822m in 1982 and £1,114m in 1981. The General Council of British Shipping disclosed in its latest figures today. Over the same period the UK fleet fell by nearly a third from 29.4 to 20.7m tonnes.

## TV concession for disabled

Physically disabled and mentally handicapped people living in residential accommodation are to be brought into the Government's concessionary television licence scheme from September.

In a written answer to Mr Tim Yeo, MP for Suffolk South, the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, announced new regulations which will extend the present licence for the elderly to the disabled.

## IRA murder 'informer'

A man found dumped near the border yesterday was shot dead by the Provisional IRA for informing on their organization, the IRA said. Brian McNally, aged 25, from Warren Point, Co. Down was shot and his body dumped near Meigh, south Armagh.

Last night, the RUC denied that Mr McNally had been an informer or had any connexion with the security forces.

## Raw milk kills five people

Green top milk was blamed yesterday for an outbreak of illness that killed five people in West Yorkshire. After recording verdicts of misadventure on four of the victims the Calderdale coroner, Mr James Turnbull, gave a warning that babies and elderly people were particularly at risk from drinking the raw unpasteurized milk.

## Wine honour

Miss Janice Robinson, wine correspondent of *The Sunday Times* and presenter of *The Wine Programme* on Channel 4 television, yesterday became the first wine writer to become a Master of Wine. Until this year only those directly employed in the wine trade were permitted to take the examinations.

### Correction

A report on July 23 should have referred to ransom money paid by members of the Shergar syndicate, not by the syndicate.

# Warship yards sale not justified on trading grounds, Day admits

By Richard Evans and Edward Townsend

The Government's decision to sell British Shipbuilders' profitable warship yards could not be justified purely on trading grounds, Mr Graham Day, the corporation's chairman, admitted to MPs yesterday.

"No organization in a normal commercial environment would seek to dispose of those elements which were profitable. You would seek to dispose of the unprofitable elements," he said.

The decision to sell the warship division, which made a profit of £44m last year compared to an overall corporation loss of £161m, was not on the recommendation of the corporation, but was based on the Government's political commitment to privatization, he indicated.

To the amazement of the Conservative-dominated Trade and Industry Select Committee, Mr Day disclosed that he did not know exactly which yards were being sold until he received a letter after Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of

State for Trade and Industry, had announced the Government's decision to the Commons on Wednesday.

Mr Edward Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend East, told Mr Day: "Mr Tebbit seems to treat you in the most unusual way."

Speaking later from his office in Knightsbridge, Mr Day admitted that "it goes against the grain" to be head of a business selling the profitable parts and retaining the loss makers.

"But we have to remember that in the public sector the Government is responsible for the national interest and the Government believes that those parts that are to be privatized can better serve the national economy by being in the private sector."

Asked whether he would be happy to remain in charge of the loss-making "rump" of British Shipbuilders, Mr Day replied: "First, I have got to get through this two-year privatization exercise. I have a 38-month

contract from July 1, 1983, and two years is too far away for me to contemplate at this time."

The select committee, which has criticized previous government decisions to sell profitable parts of nationalized industries and so leave the taxpayer with a "rump", clearly fears that the latest privatization plan will have the same effect.

Sir Peter Emery, Conservative MP for Hounslow, who persistently sought justification from Mr Day for the timing of the sale said: "It seems to me that if you had the choice you would not at this stage wish to get rid of the profitable side but would wish to keep it in order to bring the whole of the organization in due course into profit."

"Yes," Mr Day replied. "But that does not mean those profitable elements would function best in the public sector. I am not an empire builder. If I was I would like to have a little patch which would be profitable."

Leading article, page 11

## State-run firms may buy back

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

Vickers, Vespene Thorncroft and Yarrow, the three companies whose warship-building operations were nationalized in 1977, said yesterday that they were interested in buying back the yards now that the Government has ordered them to be returned to the private sector.

All three of the companies said, however, that their interest would depend on what price was asked. They are still pursuing their claims for extra compensation for the original nationalization, of their yards, and have taken their case to the European Court of Human Rights.

A ruling is not expected for at least a year, by when the Government is hoping that the sales will be well on the way to completion.

Stockbroking analysts in the City were speculating that a number of other companies, such as GEC, Babcock & Wilcox and Trafalgar House, might be interested in buying back some or all of the warship yards.

The Government has set a target date of March, 1986, for completion of the sale of the yards, either singly, in groups or as one entity.

The two most attractive yards are Vickers, at Barrow-in-Furness, Lancashire and old Yarrow business on Clydeside. The Vickers yard, which has been modernized recently and has the contract to build the Trident nuclear-powered submarine, made a profit last year of £21.2m, compared with £18.3m the year before. City estimates are that if it is sold

on its own the Barrow operation could raise up to £100m.

The Yarrow complex recorded a trading profit last year of £11.1m, against £7.9m the year before and could be worth between £30m and £40m.

The five other yards to be sold have a much smaller value, and some - notably the two "mixed" naval, merchant and oil rigbuilding yards of Cammell Laird, in Birkenhead, and Swan Hunter, Tyne and Wear - could be sold at a loss.

That is what happened earlier this year with the sale of the Scott Lithgow yard, on Clydeside, to Trafalgar House.

The saleability of individual yards will be affected by where the Ministry of Defence decides to place its orders for new ships.



Selling high: What is believed to be the first windmill built in England for 100 years takes shape on the Windmill Hill Business Park, Swindon. The windmill has been moved from the village of Chiseldon, near by where it was in use in 1823, at a cost of more than £100,000. (Richard Wintle)

## Violent pickets condemned

By Staff Reporters

Mr Charles McLaughlin, Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, yesterday launched a fierce attack on the violence of flying pickets who would "knock the living daylight" out of working miners if they got the chance, and said that his job - and that of the county police committee - was to serve those who were being attacked.

Mr McLaughlin told a meeting of his county police committee, some of whose members have criticized police activities, that the behaviour of pickets arriving from outside the county was "completely unlawful".

Mr McLaughlin said that what had happened at Babbington Colliery on Wednesday had demonstrated what could happen if outsiders concentrated on one pit. Vehicles had been stoned and damaged, bricks and stones had been thrown, and 16 people including 14 policemen had been injured.

One hundred pickets were arrested yesterday as striking miners made concerted efforts to close two working pits.

The largest confrontation was at Cresswell, one of only three collieries in the Derbyshire coalfield still producing coal. Some 2,500 pickets from north Derbyshire and South Yorkshire suddenly besieged the colliery, though police succeeded in turning back thousands more at roadblocks set up just off the M1. There were 45 arrests, mostly for alleged public order offences.

A picket of 300 miners, mostly from the north of England, failed to stop a fourth day's production at Bilston Glen colliery, near Edinburgh, where 22 miners reported for work.

As miners' wives leading the return-to-work movement yesterday pleaded with Mr Colin Kinnoch to campaign for a national ballot in the union, a warning was given that seven pits in South Wales could close because of lost markets.

Two wives from Kent, Mrs Joy Watson and Mrs Irene McGibbon, travelled to Aberdeen, Mid Glamorgan, to meet other women who believe that most miners would return to work if given a choice. Mrs Watson said a letter had been sent to Mr Kinnoch.

Mr Philip Weekes, area director of the coal board, said that seven pits which supply Llanwern steelworks could face the risk of permanent closure. They employ more than 3,500 men.

## New chief for doctrine commission

By Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondent

A doctrinally conservative bishop is to be appointed as the next head of the Church of England's Doctrine Commission, it was announced yesterday. The position is likely to become a key one in the church in the wake of the recent controversy over the

Vigil Birth and Resurrection. The Bishop of Salisbury, the Right Rev John Baker, was selected by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Dr Robert Runcie and Dr John Habgood, as the eventual successor to the commission's present chairman, the Right Rev John Taylor. Dr Baker was once a member of the commission and will rejoin it with a view to taking over when Dr Taylor retires as chairman as he is expected to do in the next few months.

Dr Habgood said at the time of the appointment of the new Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev David Jenkins, that doctrinal matters ought to receive more attention; and Dr Runcie is known to feel that the Church of England should have a better definition of what it believes.

Dr Baker is on record as having a similar belief.

# Tory council leader to oppose ministers over rate-capping

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Mr Ian Gibson, the Conservative leader of Portsmouth City Council, said yesterday that he wanted to appeal against the Government's decision to "rate-cap" his authority. His is the only council out of 18 on the Government's first capping list to have an overall Conservative majority.

Mr Gibson has local all-party support for opposing the imposition of rate-capping by ministers. He explained that the city's apparent high spending was caused by heavy debt charges left over from extensive rebuilding several years ago.

"The council is in recess and I as leader have the right under our standing orders to take urgent decisions," he said. "If I feel that the full council should be involved I will call a special council meeting without hesitation."

He believed that his council should use the "redetermination" clause of the Rates Act which gives capped councils until October to appeal against the spending squeeze. "I think we have a very good case," he said.

The 16 Labour councils on the capping list decided at a meeting in London yesterday to boycott the "redetermination" procedure because the rules allow ministers to fix spending on individual services by councils which win appeals. Labour councillors have rejected the system because it invites even greater control over their affairs by ministers than rate-capping alone.

The Labour councils said they would make the Government's plans "operable" but fell short of saying exactly how they would do it. Eight "capped" London boroughs have so far said that they will refuse to make a rate next year.

Mr Edward Knight, leader of Lambeth council, said: "There is no Labour councillor seeking to break the law or become a martyr." Other strategies being examined by Labour councillors include grudging compliance with government curbs combined with maximum public

licity about their harmful effects. Another is mass resignation by majority Labour groups so that Conservative minorities are left with the task of imposing job cuts caused by the Government's squeeze. Another is for Labour groups with strong majorities to resign at intervals and hold a series of by-elections as local referendums on the impact of government policies.

Those who favour refusing to make a rate next year are encouraged by the Government's reluctance to set this year against Liverpool Labour councillors who threatened for three months to make an illegal rate. Mr Gibson said that Portsmouth was aggrieved by being capped when he had cooperated with the Government while Liverpool had been left alone after a long battle with ministers.

The "cash limits" on local authority capital spending were breached by £400m in 1983-84 - the only serious breaches in the Government's system of cash controls (Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor, writes).

The three limits for local authority capital expenditure in England, Wales and Scotland were exceeded by more than 10 per cent of the total.

Local authorities also "overspent" £1,000m on regular services in relation to Government forecasts. But current spending by local authorities is not subject to cash limits - one reason why the Government has been attempting to introduce new controls on local authority budgets.

Total "cash-limited" central spending is provisionally estimated to have been £50,700m in 1983-84, or 1.6 per cent below the theoretical limit.

The most significant areas of underspending were by the Manpower Services Commission (8 per cent underspent in England and Wales, 14 per cent in Scotland); central government administration (where several departments were 3 per cent to 4 per cent below their limits).

## Lord Lane may assist drugs select committee

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, may give evidence before a Commons select committee in the autumn which is inquiring into the problem of drug abuse in Britain.

Sir Edward Gardner, committee chairman, said that the MPs had not yet decided on its list of witnesses. "But in the past we have asked judges to give evidence. I would not exclude the prospect of calling the Lord Chief Justice if he would be willing to give the help we so desperately need."

On Tuesday Lord Lane called for greater efforts to stop the production of heroin, particularly in Pakistan and for more

effective action by the Government to combat an alarming increase in heroin addiction and illegal importation of the drug.

Among judges who have recently given evidence to select committees are Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor himself, Mr Justice Woolf a High Court judge, and Judge West-Russell a crown court judge.

Scotland's Chief Inspector of Police warned yesterday of the growth of the "dangerous and evil" drug habit. In his annual report Mr Alexander Morrison said the increase in the number of heroin users in Scotland was alarming.

## 100 GCHQ staff rejoin unions

From Peter Hennessy

Nearly 100 civil servants at the Government Communications Headquarters have rejoined their trade unions since the Government's decision to bar unions from the Cheltenham intelligence station was ruled invalid in the High Court last week.

That brings the total union membership to between 220 and 250 out of a total staff of about 7,000 at GCHQ.

Members of GCHQ Trade Unions, the organization founded in March to cater for those who refuse to sign away their union rights, claim that many more GCHQ employees have signed applications for renewed union membership, although they are waiting for the result of next week's appeal by the Government, which could reverse last week's decision, before sending them in.

Mr Jeremy Windust, former chairman of the GCHQ branch of the Society of Civil and Public Services, said that the society's membership at Cheltenham had doubled to 70 since the High Court decision.

The Staff Association, the GCHQ house union which is in the process of being set up to replace national unions, has criticized the Prime Minister for saying in the Commons last week that its work should be halted until the appeal is heard.

In a letter to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Mr Brian Moore, chairman of its steering committee, says: "The steering committee was created following the enforced removal of trade unions and our objective is to see staff at GCHQ effectively represented. The committee serves staff, not management or ministers, and we object most strongly to your statement that our work must be halted."

The renewed publicity given to GCHQ and its work by the High Court judgment has alarmed the management at Cheltenham. All staff have been issued with a letter from Mr John Adey, director of establishments and organization, urging them not to speak to the press.

Lord Bernstein began the collection in 1931 when he bought the nucleus from Frederick Martin who had been the publicist for Berran Mills Circus in the 1920s. The collection made £49,335 and every lot sold.

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Sotheby's book sale also

## Kinnock and left agree on blacks

By Anthony Bevins

Political Correspondent

A confidential Labour Party discussion document on positive discrimination shows that Mr Neil Kinnock and the hard-left Militant Tendency are making an ideological line against the creation of constitutional black sections within the party.

The paper, *The Labour Party and Black People*, concludes with the questions: "Should we provide for the mandatory inclusion of black people on parliamentary and council short lists? Should the National Executive Committee reserve seats for black people? And, if so, who would elect those black representatives?"

Mr Kinnock has already stated publicly that he opposes such ideas because racial definition would lead to endless and unproductive "acrimony" that such racial segregation would be a terrible departure from the values of a democratic socialist party.

The working paper, to be agreed by the party national executive, as a basis for discussion, includes a draft of the case against black sections written by a supporter of Militant who duplicates Mr Kinnock's four essential arguments.

Geoffrey Smith, page 4

## Prior sees gloomy future for Ulster

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, offered a gloomy prognosis for future political developments in Northern Ireland yesterday, and disclosed that he expected to return to the backbenches in September.

Although he agreed that the Prime Minister was giving the province's problems more attention than before, Mr Prior held out little hope that talks scheduled between its political parties would bring movement or success.

"There is an opportunity for some progress. I want to dampen down excessive optimism because I think people are in pretty intransigent positions on both sides of the community."

The mood was right for talks, Mr Prior said before making probably his final appearance at the despatch box in the House of Commons for Northern Ireland questions, but "the odds

on any success or movement are very faint".

He said that the Government believed the dangers of seeking progress, adding that Dublin and London both had a role to play in helping the people of the province out of the mess they were in.

Mr Prior, ruling out Irish unity within his lifetime, said that any settlement had to be within the province. With words likely to anger Unionists, he said that the Irish Republic's Government had a legitimate interest in the affairs of Northern Ireland.

In an interview with the *Irish Times* in Belfast, Mr Prior seemed despondent. "I sometimes despair when I talk to either of the two camps, I see that both have got themselves so deeply dug in. It is a very difficult position for the British Government, it is not easy for us."

Parliament, page 4  
Mrs Prior looks back, page 9



Father's image: Sir John Cripps and Lady Ricketts studying a portrait of their father, Sir Stafford Cripps, at the National Portrait Gallery's in Close Up display, devoted to the Labour Chancellor (Chris Harris).

## Labour's defence policy

# A seed of patriotism planted in common ground

By Julian Haviland

Political Editor

With the adoption this week by the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party of a new statement on defence, Labour has some hope of fighting the next general election on an intellectually respectable defence policy.

It represents a common ground, carefully explored and defined by a representative working party, between the parliamentary party and the NEC, between left and right, between pacifists and enthusiasts for Nato.

It is therefore precious ground, and the leadership, mindful of the inconsistencies in the last election manifesto and the lethal differences within the party which these exposed, will strive to defend it

intact through the next three annual party conferences. It is and will remain the best defence policy Labour can hope to have.

That is not to say the party leaders are confident that voters will embrace it. Their best hope is that it will attract back those patriotic Labour voters who deserted last year in the belief that a government formed by Mr Michael Foot would leave Britain defenceless.

The voters will be offered a non-nuclear defence of Britain, without quibble next time. The suggestion that Britain's Polaris force be included in nuclear disarmament negotiations is abandoned. "Labour will on assuming office decommission Polaris from service," the new statement says.

Those on Labour's inter-

national committee who wanted to make this pledge conditional still on the Soviets giving something in return in negotiation were persuaded to drop their objection. They came to see that the will to extract any reciprocal concession was so weak that such a stipulation would be worthless.

So there is a new clarity there. The new statement is firmly behind Nato, participation in which, it says, is the clear wish of the British people. But it is dedicated to changing Nato strategy to no first use of nuclear weapons, the withdrawal of battlefield nuclear weapons from Europe, and ultimately to an entirely non-nuclear posture.

Potentially, the most painful of the document's inconsistencies is the restated commit-

ment to remove from Britain all United States nuclear weapons and nuclear bases.

The party knows it will have trouble reconciling this with its claims of firm support for Nato, as the document is vague about the "appropriate action" it will take to see that the Americans conform.

The trade-off won by those who are serious about defence was that the party must also abandon the commitment, halloved by endorsement at several annual conferences, to reduce overall defence expenditure, as a percentage of the gross national product, to that of the average of Britain's European allies. This commitment, in slightly less precise language, was also in last year's manifesto and is thought

to have been an even heavier millstone than the nuclear doublespeak.

Labour argued that the proposed expenditure on Trident would starve the conventional equipment budgets of all Services and leave the country weaker.

Labour's opponents argued that, since conventional defences were costlier than nuclear, anything less than a willingness to increase defence spending must represent a weakening. Yet Labour, they pointed out, proposed to cut in by a quarter. There was no doubt who won the debate.

The new statement comes nowhere near acknowledging that the defence bill might have to rise.



## Baby girl died after doctor injected salt solution overdose, inquest is told

A premature baby girl, aged six days, was killed when a doctor injected her with a salt solution 30 times the normal dose, an inquest was told yesterday.

The baby, Hannah McCarthy, died at the Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Telford, Buckinghamshire, within hours of the solution being administered to clean out her blood vessels before an emergency blood transfusion. Instead of a 0.9 per cent solution she received a 30 per cent solution, normally used to clean medical equipment.

A post-mortem examination showed that the baby died from massive haemorrhaging after the break-up of red blood cells caused by a salt solution being injected.

Last night the baby's mother, Mrs Mary McCarthy, of Eton

Wick, near Maidenhead, Berkshire, criticized the verdict of an accidental death returned by the jury at the inquest in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, maintaining that her daughter's death was not an accident.

"I do not yet know whether we shall take court proceedings against the hospital," she said.

Dr. Lillian Lamont, the senior house officer at the hospital, told how she had set up the transfusion to treat the baby's jaundice. She said it was the first time she had ever carried out such a transfusion.

"I was not aware that ampoules of sodium chloride came in varying strengths, other than 0.9 per cent. When I checked the ampoule I used on Hannah I did not read the strength," she said.

Dr. John Pearce, the consultant paediatrician at the hospital,

said that when he was called to the special baby care unit, the child had collapsed and was hardly breathing. He said that the transfusion procedure was not common and was performed only in emergencies.

Dr. Janet Eyr, the paediatric registrar at the hospital, told of her surprise in finding the ampoules. "I would not expect this stronger solution to be available routinely on the special baby care unit."

The jury said that the manufacturers of medicinal compounds used by doctors should be advised to wrap their products in more easily identifiable packaging and added that the East Berkshire Health Authority should be asked to have their supply procedures overhauled, particularly at the hospital.

## Plan to ban surrogacy criticized by scientists

By Thomson Practice Science Correspondent

The Warnock committee's recommendation that surrogate motherhood should be outlawed is coming under increasing attack, with two leading medical and scientific journals joining the critics.

The committee displayed "uncharacteristic ferocity" in wanting to prohibit women from acting as surrogate mothers, and the proposed ban "would make bad law, inconsistent and unworkable," an editorial in the latest issue of *Nature* the leading science journal says.

According to *The Lancet*, "the continuing debate is sure to reflect much sympathy for the retention of 'last resort' surrogacy."

"Surely it should not prove impossible to suppress the repulsive commercial element and yet refrain from imposing a total legal prohibition on a method to be used in exceptional circumstances."

The Warnock report, published last week, calls for a ban on all surrogacy agencies and a law making all surrogacy agreements illegal and unenforceable.

But *Nature* says "some cases of surrogate motherhood (to be banned) would be distinguishable from donations of frozen embryos (to be allowed) only by the intentions of the participants, which might not be disclosed."

"Would the physicians involved then be prosecuted after the event? Much better that surrogacy should be regulated professionally, with the requirement that each woman should be advised by a separate physician and that each surrogate pregnancy should be registered before completion."

Referring to the legal issues, *The Lancet* says: "Infertile couples and the commissioned mother entering into a surrogate pregnancy may have to accept that the contract is unenforceable."



Clowning around: Nicola Chesney, aged 10, joins the professionals of Gerry Cottle's Circus after being made up as a clown at the circus's special school holiday workshop in Walthamstow, east London (Photographs: John Voos).

## TV-am is told to boost news coverage

TV-am has been told by the Independent Broadcasting Authority to improve and expand its news coverage.

In its annual report, published yesterday, the IBA said that although it did not expect TV-am to become the *Times* or *Financial Times* of the air, it looked for a greater emphasis on news and information.

"Its impatience in wishing to see this achieved more rapidly is tempered only by its knowledge of TV-am's financial constraints," the report said.

Despite pressure from the authority, news tended to be confined to the earliest part of the show, and was badly integrated into a background increasingly given over to entertainment.

The IBA lavishes most praise on *The Jewel in the Crown*, Granada TV's production of Paul Scott's *Raj Quarter*.

Although "it was not a vintage year for situation comedy," the report commends Central TV's *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet*. It also praises Thames TV's *Minder*.

The report notes dissatisfaction with central TV's puppet satire show, *Spitting Image*. The authority required several cuts to be made in the programme, and received protests about the puppets of the Royal Family.

Overall, however, complaints to the IBA were well down, with 2,214 received during 1983-84, compared with 2,471 in 1982-83.

A fifth of all complaints were reserved for Channel 4.

## Guard on listed buildings

A round-the-clock guard has been mounted on a row of listed houses by council officials who fear the owner wants to demolish the buildings.

Mr Leslie Smith, the owner, has twice been seen on the site with a "hymal" demolition machine. And now the council has installed a caravan to house a 24-hour guard with their belief is the only way to ensure the safety of the 190-year-old terrace.

The eleven houses in York Road, Bristol, have been empty for about twenty years. Last month city council officers served notice on Mr Smith to take down a chimney stack, remove some brickwork and stabilise the buildings to make them safe, but the work has not been done.

Mr Smith has been warned by the council that he faces a £2,000 fine or two years in prison if he knocks the buildings down without permission.

## Immunity claim by Dikko diplomat

By Richard Dowds

Lawyers acting for Mohammed Yusuf, the Nigerian diplomat charged together with three Israelis with the kidnapping of Alhaji Umaru Dikko, yesterday claimed that he had diplomatic immunity and demanded his release.

Mr Nicholas Ezechie, Mr Yusuf's solicitor, said at Lambeth Magistrates' Court, south London, that he had been given a diplomatic entry certificate in his diplomatic passport by the British High Commission in Lagos on May 16 and had entered Britain on May 17 and June 1 and was accepted at Heathrow by immigration officials dealing with diplomats.

"Mohammed Yusuf was accredited to the Nigerian High Commission, and therefore has full diplomatic immunity. There is therefore no jurisdiction to detain him, interview him or violate his person," Mr Ezechie said. He also applied for bail for Mr Yusuf.

Det. Sgt. Brian Boyce said that the application had been passed to the Director of Public Prosecutions but his understanding was that Mr Yusuf was a diplomat but not accredited to the United Kingdom and, therefore, without diplomatic status.

Mr Boyce opposed bail on the grounds that Mr Yusuf had no ties in Britain and might fail to appear for trial.

Mr Charles Davidson, the magistrate, agreed to hold over the bail application until the question of Mr Yusuf's diplomatic immunity had been resolved.

The four men charged with Alhaji Dikko's kidnapping on July 5, and with administering supplying drugs, are Mohammed Yusuf, aged 40, Dr Ley-Arie "Ley" Shapiro, aged 43, Alexander Barak, aged 27, and Felix Abitbol, aged 31. They were remanded in custody until August 23.

## Bream hopes to play again

Julian Bream, the classical guitarist, said yesterday that he hopes to resume his career in two to three months after a car accident on Saturday in which his right arm was fractured.

Mr Bream, who is in hospital in Salisbury, said that doctors had carried out "a severely complicated" operation on his arm which had been "resting well outside the car door" when he crashed against a stone wall. He said he appeared to have blacked out from loss of blood.

## Yeoman of the Guard accused

A yeoman of the Guard, second-in-command of the Yeoman of the Guard at the Tower of London, and his wife were remanded on bail by Thames magistrates yesterday.

Mr Dennis Bailey, aged 53, and his wife Betty, aged 60, of the Casement, the Tower of London, were remanded until August 30, accused of stealing 56 entrance tickets, worth a total of £163, from the Department of the Environment.

## Jury in secrets case retires

The jury trying a Royal Air Force signaller accused of passing secret information to Cyprus spent last night in an hotel before continuing their deliberations today.

Senior Airman Paul Davies, aged 21, has pleaded not guilty to three charges under the Official Secrets Act of passing information to Mrs Eva Jaffer, the Hungarian-born wife of a Lebanese businessman.

## Richardson released

Charles Richardson, aged 50, the south London gang leader, has been released from Wandsworth prison after serving 17 years of a 25-year sentence. At his trial at the Central Criminal Court he was convicted of assault, grievous bodily harm, robbery and demanding money with menaces.

## Guns charge

Vincent Palmer, a Birmingham youth aged 18, appeared before magistrates at Torbay, Devon, yesterday charged with stealing 12 handguns. The guns were found in the boot of a car after a car chase on Monday night. Mr Palmer was remanded in custody.

## £60 air fare cuts to US proposed

By Michael Bailey Transport Editor

Reductions of up to £60 in Atlantic air fares this winter are being proposed by British Airways and other leading airlines compared with last year's fares.

And there is speculation that cheaper fares will continue next summer as the large airlines react to increasing competition from low-cost carriers such as Virgin Atlantic and People Express.

BA are proposing a New York Super Apex (advanced purchase return) of £259 from November 1, £40 down on last year with a £20 surcharge at weekends and higher fares over Christmas. To Boston the rate proposed is £239, £60 down, and to Washington £284, £56 down.

Mr Larry Langley, US general manager of TWA, said: "The competitive pace on the North Atlantic has once again quickened. The low-fare carriers are obviously having an impact on the market, and now other market forces are starting to take over."

Virgin Atlantic, who will be charging a £220 return to New York during the winter with a £20 weekend surcharge, said they were not worried by the new low fares, and People Express said they welcomed competition.

## BR accused of wanton neglect

A transport consultant yesterday accused British Rail of "wanton neglect" of the Settle to Carlisle line, considered to be England's fastest speeder.

Professor Donald Mackay of Peids, Edinburgh consultants hired by three county councils to make a £34,000 survey of the threatened line, said that at least £17.5m would need to be spent on it to keep it open.

The consultants' report on the 72-mile route, commissioned by Cumbria, West Yorkshire and Lancashire councils, claims that British Rail only spent enough on the line's many bridges and viaducts to ensure basic safety, although its intention to pipe the line was not announced until last year.

"In effect BR is determined to close this line some years ago and have proceeded on the basis that it would be closed," Professor Mackay told a meeting in Kendal.

The report says that the economics of the line, which serves small towns in north Yorkshire and Cumbria, are no worse than those of any other provincial line.

Recent government proposals to deregulate bus services could make them less efficient and less attractive, the Bus and Coach Council said yesterday.

It claimed that the 39 per cent of households without cars might be left with a worse bus service than now, or none at all.

## Technician acted illegally in taking denture mould

A country publican who removed the bed teeth of his customers with a pair of pliers and a couple of whiskeys was not breaking the law, but a dental technician who took an impression for a top set of dentures was, magistrates in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, were told yesterday.

The technician, Michael Lavery, aged 43, of Rook Tree Lane, Stotfold, Bedfordshire, who admitted a charge of illegal dentistry last October, was given an absolute discharge.

The magistrates said they would not award costs against him.

He was reported to the General Council after the man whose impression he took told his own dentist.

Mr David Maxted-Jones, secretary of the Association of Dental Prosthetists, who gave evidence on Mr Lavery's behalf said that the publican's practices were ruled by the General Dental Council to be dangerous but not illegal.

However, the court was told that under the law a technician may not put his fingers into the mouth of a patient. He can only make false teeth from impressions sent to him by a dentist.

Mr Robin Cooper, prosecuting for the general dental council, said that Mr Lavery was fined £50 at the same court in February after admitting two identical offences.

Mr Maxted-Jones said that a campaign was under way to change the law so that technicians could deal entirely with the supply of false teeth. In some continental countries, he said technicians were allowed to take impressions, make the teeth and fit them.

## Wales faces strict water rationing

By Robin Young

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, announced in the House of Commons yesterday that Wales faces strict water rationing from September 1, when it might be necessary to cut consumption by half and interrupt supplies for up to 17 hours a day.

In the West Country, where a million consumers face cuts in their water supplies of at least 17 hours a day from early next

month, people in the Fel district were advised to boil water because emergency supplies are being used from mine shafts and quarries.

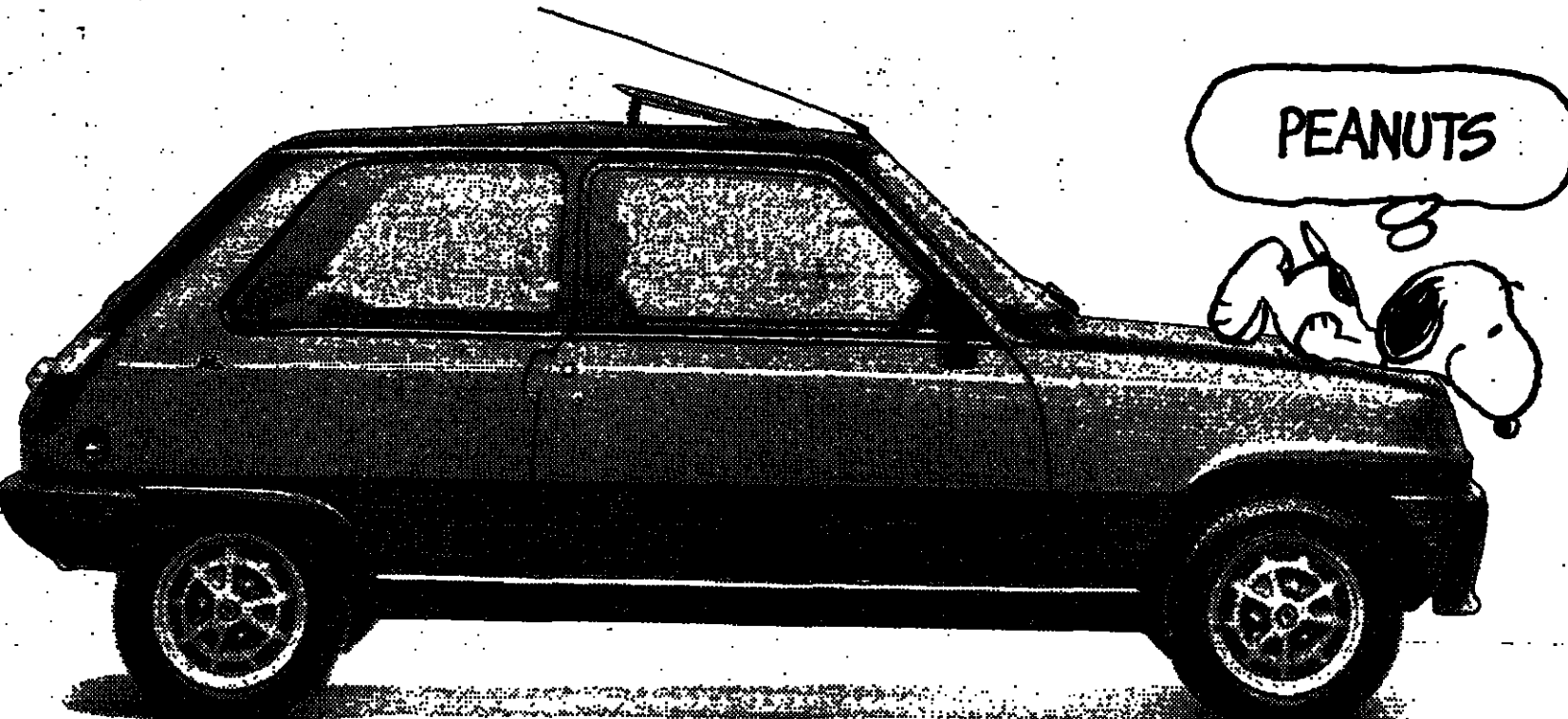
The South West Water Authority chairman, Mr Len Hill, said that long-term rainfall forecasts were not favourable, and the public had still not recognized the seriousness of the situation.

In the Lake District emergency pumps had to be brought into use to maintain water supplies to west Cumbria after the level in Ennerdale lake dropped below the outfall pipe.

Mr Brian Dunn, of Colton, near York, a college lecturer, was apoplectic after taking a petrol-driven pump down a disused well behind his home, intending to use the water on his allotment.

Parliament, page 4  
Forecast, back page

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## PARLIAMENT July 26 1984

## Rain predicted by October

## WELSH DROUGHT

Measures to conserve remaining stocks of water in Wales are being taken on the basis of meteorological records which point to substantial rain falling by the third week of October, Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said in a Commons statement.

Mr Edwards said: Since February of this year rainfall in the Principality has been abnormally low and over the whole of the Welsh water authority area has only been 44 per cent of the long-term average.

The authority has been monitoring the water supply situation carefully since Easter and taken measures to conserve stocks of water held in reservoirs by applications for Drought Orders to reduce compensation water charges from reservoirs and to increase abstraction from rivers.

The authority has also sought to reduce consumption by banning the use of hoses and garden sprinklers. In spite of these measures reservoir levels have continued to fall and further action will be necessary to conserve the remaining stocks of water until there is sufficient rainfall to replenish them. Nobody can be certain when this will be, but meteorological records point to substantial rain by the third week of October and the authority have formulated their emergency plans accordingly.

The areas most seriously affected are south east Wales, Preseli, with a population of about 40,000 people, and the Lleyn Peninsula where the influx of summer tourists more than doubles the population to about 66,000.

However, the shortage of water in south east Wales gives the greatest cause for concern because some one million people are involved. The authority has therefore set up a Drought Liaison Committee for South East Wales with representatives from the local authorities, the health authorities, the Welsh Office, the CBI, NFU, Farmers Union of Wales, and other bodies. The Committee met last Monday when the authority presented the facts about the situation and outlined their plans for meeting the shortage. In the first instance there will be a ban on the non-essential uses of water such as automatic car washing plants and drought orders have been signed to put this into effect.

If the dry weather continues the authority will then need to ensure a further reduction in consumption of about 50 per cent of normal from September 7. They intend to do this by shutting off supplies to domestic consumers for up to 17 hours a day; industrialists and agriculturalists will be asked to reduce consumption by 50 per cent; and the public will be asked to reduce consumption by 50 per cent.

The Wye transfer scheme was produced to deal with the drought emergency of 1976. It was brought forward and looked at more urgently as a result of the 1976 experience very soon after we came into office and I gave approval for that scheme. It was then considered by the water authority in the light of current assessments of water needs, and the plans were proceeded with on that basis and the intention was to complete the supply of 15 million gallons a day for the Wye transfer by next year. This decision was taken in 1981.

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Nobody can be certain when this will be, but meteorological records point to substantial rain by the third week of October and the authority have formulated their emergency plans accordingly.

The areas most seriously affected are south east Wales, Preseli, with a population of about 40,000 people, and the Lleyn Peninsula where the influx of summer tourists more than doubles the population to about 66,000.

However, the shortage of water in south east Wales gives the greatest cause for concern because some one million people are involved. The authority has therefore set up a Drought Liaison Committee for South East Wales with representatives from the local authorities, the health authorities, the Welsh Office, the CBI, NFU, Farmers Union of Wales, and other bodies. The Committee met last Monday when the authority presented the facts about the situation and outlined their plans for meeting the shortage. In the first instance there will be a ban on the non-essential uses of water such as automatic car washing plants and drought orders have been signed to put this into effect.

If the dry weather continues the authority will then need to ensure a further reduction in consumption of about 50 per cent of normal from September 7. They intend to do this by shutting off supplies to domestic consumers for up to 17 hours a day; industrialists and agriculturalists will be asked to reduce consumption by 50 per cent; and the public will be asked to reduce consumption by 50 per cent.

The Wye transfer scheme was produced to deal with the drought emergency of 1976. It was brought forward and looked at more urgently as a result of the 1976 experience very soon after we came into office and I gave approval for that scheme. It was then considered by the water authority in the light of current assessments of water needs, and the plans were proceeded with on that basis and the intention was to complete the supply of 15 million gallons a day for the Wye transfer by next year. This decision was taken in 1981.

Mr Edwards said: Since February of this year rainfall in the Principality has been abnormally low and over the whole of the Welsh water authority area has only been 44 per cent of the long-term average.

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## Shore on why MPs should stay at work

## THE ECONOMY

The economic, industrial, social and political crisis facing the country would only intensify in the weeks ahead and the House should therefore return from its summer recess on August 13, instead of October 22, and thereafter, as necessary, Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said when proposing such an amendment to the motion for the summer adjournment.

Since the Budget four months ago, he said, the economic outlook had clouded and darkened. Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, had pointed out that after his Budget the banks' base lending rate was cut, the mortgage rate was cut and the stock market had risen. Now the banks' base lending rate had risen from 8 1/2 per cent to 12 per cent, the mortgage rate had risen from 10 1/2 per cent to 12 1/2 per cent, and the share index was down from 894 to 770.

The trade deficit was growing, output was on a plateau, and unemployment would leap again when the school leavers went onto the register. The Prime Minister's claim, just before the Budget, that the economy was in good shape was there for all to see, in all its absurdity.

The main dispute was in its own right, and with the House in recess, there would not be constant probing of the Government's intentions, and the Opposition had advocated throughout. The Government lacked the will to find a solution.

The Government had been active and diligent in organizing for history and the Opposition had been in the search for a solution. The Secretaries of State for Energy and Employment had washed their hands of the whole dispute.

It would be a tragedy if the House went into recess and returned 12 weeks later with no advance on these problems and the cost in lost jobs and social terms further increased. It is not our economy (he went on) but our society that is under strain this year. There is thunder in the air. This is the summer of

discontent and Parliament should not absent itself for so long a spell. Mr Giles Shaw, Under Secretary of State for Energy, said it was a bit rich of Mr Shore to suggest that the Government was not interested in the future of the coal industry. It had done more than any other Government in recent years to provide for its future.

There was not, in relation to the dispute, a state of emergency of such a character which would require Mr Shore to move the amendment he had.

CEGB stocks were at a high level. Industrial production had not been disrupted. BSC achieved a level of production in the last full week as at any time since the dispute began.

The present situation in the coal industry was that part of the NUM was on strike and a significant part was not. The union was widely divided on the issue. More than 65,000 miners and other people within the industry had exercised their right to work.

In the NCB accounts for 1983-84, certainly £200m attributed to the needless strike and the needless overtime ban that preceded it.

In the past four years the NCB had lost nearly £2,000m, that was the underlying problem facing the industry. In 1983-84 the bill to the taxpayer was a massive £1,300m - equivalent to £130 per week for every employee in the coal industry. Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolton, Lab): Not as much as the farmers.

Mr Shaw: The rate at which subsidy is spent in British agriculture works out for the 265,000 who work within that industry as £65 per head and in the mining industry it is £130 per head. Mr Skinner: £20,000 for every farmer.

Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP, said that before the House committed itself to going into recess for three months, they should say that if the miners' dispute was still continuing in the third week of August, and looking as if it was going into September, the House should be brought back on September 3 for a two-day debate on the issue before the party conference season began.

The economic situation facing the country was not such that the House could be legitimately asked not to sit for three months. There is at this moment (he said) a public expenditure review taking place within government departments for 1985-86 but is looking at the expenditure commitments of government departments for the current year.

The reason is not difficult to imagine. On all the basic parameters on which the Government's economic policy is based they are way off target.

## Peers vote against higher car allowance

## HOUSE OF LORDS

The House of Lords rejected by a majority of more than 60 votes Government proposals for new car mileage rates for peers, including a rate of 39p per mile for cars of more than 2,300 cc.

A motion setting out the new mileage rates, identical to those for MPs and already agreed by the Commons, had been submitted for approval by Viscount Whitlaw, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords. Instead passed by 122 votes to 64 - a majority against 54 - an amendment moved by Lord Tordoff (L) to retain a uniform rate of 25.9p per mile for all cars of whatever engine size.

Viscount Whitlaw said the proposals reflected the findings of an independent inquiry, headed by Lord Tordoff, which had been set up to look into the issue.

The introduction of the 39p top band would be seen as an encouragement for peers to use their cars rather than public transport and to use big cars.

The work outside (he said) is watching us and we must be seen to be acting responsibly. Lord Jenkins of Putney (Lab) said peers should be discouraged from using Rolls R Bentleys and encouraged to use Ford Escorts. When on one occasion a peer ran into his Escort the cost was comparatively small but when he ran into another peer's Rolls Bentley the cost was very large. (Laughter.)

Lord Tordoff, opposing the introduction of the higher rate of 39p, said that in these days it behaved as if it was a car for the country. They should be seen to be economical in the spending of taxpayers' money and encourage the use of public transport.

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## Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Sending signals is important for a political leader. Sometimes the direct consequences of his actions matter less than the psychological effect, the impression that is created in the world at large and in his party. So it is now with Mr Kinnoch's initiative on the procedure for reselection, or deselection, of Labour MPs.

The precise change for which he won approval in the National Executive Committee on Wednesday is hardly dramatic. If it is approved by the party conference in October, it will enable a general management committee to ballot every member of the constituency party as to whether a sitting member should be retained or rejected rather than simply taking the decision itself.

But the change will be no more than a signal. It will not require a GMC to hold a ballot, and those committees may be least inclined to have one who are most determined to elect a member unreasonably. In that case, this could prove to be a reform which would work well - except where it was needed.

## Message of hope to moderates

But Mr Kinnoch is not only seeking to change a rule. He is also sending a number of signals. He has made it absolutely clear that he as leader believes a ballot is the appropriate means by which such a decision should be made. It follows that a member who is discarded without a ballot ought to receive Mr Kinnoch's explicit support.

Mr Kinnoch's views on correct procedure will not force every recalcitrant committee to fall in line: there was no lack of opposition either during or after Wednesday's meeting. But it might change the expectation in the party as to how a committee should behave.

In taking this stand, Mr Kinnoch is conveying a message of hope to all those a party who have been resisting the encroachments of the far left. The message is that the party has been so badly battered that they need to be encouraged that it is worth keeping up the fight.

He has also sent a signal to the country that he intends to be a positive leader, not the prisoner of the far left. It is a message that he is not going to let the far left take the party back to power. Electoral logic dictates that the party must move more into line with the broad trend of public opinion - which is what Mr Kinnoch has been trying to do with this initiative, modest as it is.

## Polaris and public opinion

What then is one to make of the new statement on defence which was also approved at the same meeting on Wednesday? It gets rid of some of the previous ambiguities and disagreements on defence by moving still further away from majority opinion.

One of the principal points of discord during the general election was that Mr Healey saw the absurdity of offering to put Polaris on the negotiating table. Yet then promising to get rid of it even if no deal could be made with the Soviet Union. How could there be any incentive in such circumstances for the Soviet negotiators to make any concession?

Yet the party is now apparently prepared to unite on a policy of scrapping Polaris regardless. Mr Kinnoch, like Mr Foot before him, is a convinced unilateralist, and he must be given credit for remaining true to his beliefs. But in doing so he is not aligning the party with public opinion, as expressed in countless polls.

Nor is the new policy internally consistent. An effective non-nuclear defence strategy would be more expensive than the present one. So it is no use promising to get rid of nuclear weapons and preserve the existing level of defence expenditure for the time being.

It would be unrealistic to expect a future Labour government to spend more on defence. So the non-nuclear option, attractive though it may sound, does not offer the prospect of strong defence - which is what the country indicated it wanted during the last election. The most disturbing reflection on the inner condition of the Labour Party is that right wingers, who cannot have agreed with the policy, seem to have accepted it with scarcely a murmur of protest. A party has to be judged on its policies just as much as its procedures.

## Prior hopes for lasting progress

## ULSTER

The question of Mr James Prior's future as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland was raised during Commons questions.

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, asked: Has he now grasped the fact that the dialogue for which we had all hoped is being delayed to see whether his successor is wet, dry or damp? Much as we would like to see him passing, had it not better be soon?

Mr Prior: I have no evidence to support that view.

Earlier, Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolton, Lab) had shouted: He is on his way out.

Mr Prior responded: I may be on my way out but I will do my damndest to see he is never on the way in. (Conservative laughter and cheers.)

Mr Kevin McNamara (Finn, North, Lab): Why is he so happy to be going? Is it because he has made no real constitutional advance in Northern Ireland, which is still a gerrymandering state, bearing no resemblance to any ideas of a democracy?

Mr Prior: All secretaries of state, from both sides of the House, have done their best to make political progress in Northern Ireland and must involve both parts of the community and that is our aim and that is what I have sought to achieve.

Mr Peter Thurnham (Bolton North East, C): Does he think it would be a fitting memorial for his work in Northern Ireland if a causeway was built linking Northern Ireland to the mainland and Great Britain?

Mr Prior: I do not think we have got enough money for that.

Mr Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight, L): The greatest gift he could give to the country would be to achieve a power-sharing executive out of the Assembly. Is he at all optimistic, from the discussions he has had, that this is achievable?

Mr Prior: I think progress towards any devolved administration involving both parts of the community is going to be slow. Any form of power-sharing must not come under such great pressure that it breaks down again as it did before.

Therefore, we must look for other modes than just simply the power-sharing of 1973 and 1974. That is what I am trying to turn the attention of the parties to, to see whether there is some alternative which meets the criteria.

Mr Prior added later: I do not think we are going to see miraculous progress in the short term. It would be better to make slow progress that can be sustained rather than miraculous progress which will go wrong again.

**Supporters of Noraid not welcome**

Supporters of Noraid, the American organization which raises money for the IRA, would not be welcome in Northern Ireland this summer, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during questions in the Commons.

He added that he was well aware of what had happened during a delegation's visit to the Province in August last year, when one member of Noraid was among the 65 arrested at a demonstration to mark the 12th anniversary of internment.

He had been in touch with the Home Secretary (Mr Leon Brittan) about the proposed visit by Noraid supporters next month.

He was replying to Mr Peter Robinson (Belfast East, DUP), who pointed out that July and August were traditionally sensitive months for security in the Province, particularly around the time of the anniversary of internment.

A number of terrorist activities (he added) were staged in August 1983 to impress the visitors from Noraid. That same delegation intends to return this August. Will Mr Prior take steps to make sure that that organization are excluded from Northern Ireland?

Mr Prior: I am well aware of what happened last August and I make perfectly plain that this particular group is not welcome in Northern Ireland. In the case of certain individuals, I have been in touch with the Home Secretary about this.

Earlier, Mr Prior told MPs that so far this year 324 people had been charged with serious offences, including 34 with murder and 38 with attempted murder. A total of 126 weapons, 21,349 rounds of ammunition and 10,940 lbs of explosives had been recovered.

Mr Harvey Proctor (Billerica, C): There is wide support for the present courage and determination which has typified Mr Prior's leadership of Northern Ireland.

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said: Security is best protected by attracting the support of the whole community for the agencies of law and order.

Further measures to prevent penetration in Ulster elections could be taken, Mr Nicholas Scott, Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during questions in the Commons. The Government shares the widespread public concern in Northern Ireland at the extent and nature of electoral abuse in recent elections there, and considers what further measures, including those requiring a Bill, should be introduced before the local government elections in May 1985.

Mr Robert Maclellan (Caithness and Sutherland, SDP) said the

concern was widespread before the European elections and the Government had not moved then. He sought an assurance that the consultations would be extensive, with the constitutional parties.

Mr Scott said some administrative measures had been taken before the European elections. But before considering legislative action all options should be considered.

Mr Barry Porter (Wirral South, C) asked if the time had come for some compulsory identification for voters in the Province but in the whole of the United Kingdom.

Mr Scott said the widespread abuse meant all options must be considered to counter the abuse, otherwise they would be defrauding the voters of Northern Ireland.

The Minister said she would be unacceptable for some form of identification, such as stamping with invisible ink, to be used in Ulster but nowhere else.

Mr Scott: I cannot accept that. The Ulster situation is different from that on this side of the water so special measures may well be necessary.

Mr Peter Bruinvels (Leicester East, C): There is a growing threat of penetration there but abuse is also occurring in Leicester to a large extent. (Laughter.)

There should be consultations with the Home Secretary on the difficulties experienced by other parts of the UK.

Mr Scott said the Home Secretary's attention would doubtless be drawn to what Mr Bruinvels had said.

## Difference of opinion who owns STC

Mr Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, and Mr Neil Kinnoch, Leader of the Opposition, fell out at question time over who owns the Standard Telephones Co, which has made a bid for the British computer company ICL.

Mr Kinnoch maintained Standard Telephones was American-owned while Mrs Thatcher insisted it was now a British company.

Mr Kinnoch said: There is much concern this morning over the news that Standard Telephones have made a serious takeover bid for ICL.

Will Mrs Thatcher make absolutely clear to all concerned that she will use the powers her Government has to ensure that our only major independent computer company remains in British control?

Mrs Thatcher: The Standard Telephones Co is now a British company. It is not an American-owned company. (Prolonged interruptions.)

Mr Kinnoch: The Prime Minister says it is a subsidiary of ICL, which is an American company.

Mrs Thatcher: I inquired this morning and I understand the Standard Telephones Co is now a British company and it has made a bid for ICL. The matter should be considered by the Secretary of State for Trade after advice from the Director-General of Fair Trading in the normal way.

Mr Kinnoch: The Prime Minister says it is a subsidiary of ICL, which is an American company.

## Graduate employment prospects more promising than last year

Graduate employment prospects are improving, after a slight fall in the proportion of last year's university leavers who could not find jobs.

Figures published by the Central Services Unit for careers and appointments advisers show that unemployment among 1983 fell to 11 per cent, against 13 per cent for the previous year.

1982 was the worst for many years, but there optimism that graduate unemployment may be reduced to the 1980 level of 8 per cent.

Mr Brian Punt, director of the unit, said yesterday that the number of employers notifying vacancies to universities and polytechnics this year is up by 40 per cent. "The signs are that last year's improvement may

well be accelerated this year," he said.

The proportion entering short-term jobs is up, however. The unit's statisticians say that this is not always because they cannot find anything better but because "many graduates are now taking a conscious decision to delay their entry into a stable position".

None the less, the proportion gaining permanent employment within the first six months after leaving is up from 45 per cent in 1982 to 48.3 per cent by the end of last year.

Business and administration students and those in electronics and computers sciences appear to face least difficulty finding work.

Many more graduates are starting careers in retailing jobs, although the unit says that field have been notified this year.

The unit says that the concept of a graduate job has shifted in recent years. Until the economy improves enough for traditional employers to take more graduates, former students will need "to continue to be as flexible as they seem to have become in their job-hunting."

Last year's improvement was achieved in spite of a 10 per cent increase in the overall numbers of graduates since 1980, to 95,000. Women made up 41 per cent of successful finalists, against 37 per cent three years ago.

## Clift case man's conviction quashed

A man who spent three years in jail on the evidence of discredited forensic scientist Dr Alan Clift had his conviction quashed by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, said that because of Dr Clift's involvement in the conviction of Ian Gilligan, aged 33, "must inevitably be labelled unsafe and unsatisfactory."

As he has served his sentence, his legal advisers say they will now consider claiming compensation. Mr Gilligan, of Jedburgh Street, Middlebrough, Cleveland, was not in court for the verdict. Dr Clift was, but left without comment. Dr Clift's involvement in the conviction of Ian Gilligan, aged 33, "must inevitably be labelled unsafe and unsatisfactory."

Dr Clift gave evidence that hairs found in the getaway car matched those of Mr Gilligan and the victim.



## Gandhi's new home minister deflects wrath of opposition

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Yash P. V. Narasimha Rao, the new Minister for Home Affairs in Mrs Indira Gandhi's Cabinet, is proving what a wise choice he was to fend off opposition fury over Punjab and Kashmir. His silken debating technique has been shown to great effect in the Upper House of the Indian Parliament for two days running.

On the first day he turned aside opposition wrath over the absence of information in the Government's White Paper on the Punjab agitation. He managed to suggest in the House that although the Government had found it inadvisable to spell out whose exactly was the foreign hand stirring up the trouble, it had still managed to include enough clues to enable the Indian people to identify the villains correctly.

Yesterday he at first caused some fury by saying that he did not "propose to discuss the behaviour or the constitutional propriety of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir in dismissing the Government of Dr Farooq Abdullah. That was not the concern of the House, he insisted; that was purely a state matter.



Mr Narasimha Rao: Silken debating technique.

The House was mollified somewhat when he said that he would not stop them from discussing it, and though he did not talk about the constitutional position himself, a prominent legal spokesman, Mr Madan Bhartiya, best known for having been one of Mrs Gandhi's personal lawyers, was at hand with chapter and verse to show how constitutionally proper it had been.

Mr Bhartiya defended the Governor's action in refusing Dr Abdullah's request for a dissolution and fresh elections by reference to the British experience in 1969.

According to Mr Bhartiya, at that time Mr Harold Wilson was faced with a party revolt which would have robbed him of his majority in the Commons. He toyed with advising the Queen to dissolve Parliament, but there was a constitutional outcry against it saying that he should not give such advice, and if he did the Queen should ignore it.

The debate was also notable for a contribution from Miss Javalalitha from Tamil Nadu, who in what one member called "a delicate exercise of fence sitting" managed to enrage both sides of the House. She attacked the provision of the constitution under which the central government can intervene to dismiss a state government (which was used against her party a few years ago) but at the same time bitterly attacked Dr Abdullah's support of anti-nationalist and secessionist forces.

When she started laying about her and attacking other opposition leaders in the south, including the Janata Government in Karnataka and Mr N. T. Rama Rao, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, she caused a 10-minute shouting match to erupt around her handsome head.

## Pledge by Africans to combat food crisis

From Jan Raath, Harare

Forty African states have for the first time publicly committed themselves to relying chiefly on their own efforts to end the continent's food crisis.

The thirteenth biennial African regional conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization ended here on Wednesday with the "Harare declaration" affirming that "the burden of developing our agriculture and rural areas and raising nutritional standards of all our peoples rests substantially on the efforts of our own governments and peoples."

The four-page document, acknowledging the fact that Western countries and donor agencies already this year have supplied the continent with 2.3m tonnes of food, added that the goal of self sufficiency would have to be met with "the full support of the international community."

Mr Edouard Saouma, the director general of the FAO, said the declaration was "an act of faith in Africa," reflecting the conference's "sense of responsibility."

Papers presented to the conference by the continent's agriculture ministers dwelt on the themes of providing farmers with price incentives, improved agricultural infrastructure, effective training programmes and the eradication of animal diseases, notably rinderpest.



Acting with mother: Sophia Loren and her 11-year-old son, Edoardo, in a scene from the film *Qualcosa di Biondo* (Something Blond), directed by Maurizio Ponzi.

## Swapo summit with Pretoria breaks down on Cuban issue

From Michael Horneby, Johannesburg

South Africa and Swapo, the guerrilla organization which has been fighting since 1966 for the independence of Namibia, have failed to agree on terms for a ceasefire in the territory, often described as Africa's last colony.

The talks on Wednesday in Cape Verde - the first publicly announced bilateral meeting - broke down because South Africa refused to give a commitment that a ceasefire would lead to independence for Namibia under United Nations Security Council Resolution 435.

Dr Willie Niekirk, the South African Administrator-General in Namibia, who represented Pretoria at the talks, told Mr Sam Nujoma, the Swapo leader, that Resolution 435 could not be implemented until there was a firm agreement in the with-

drawal of some 25,000 Cuban troops from Angola.

Resolution 435 provides for a ceasefire in Namibia, supervised by a UN peace-keeping force, but only as the first stage in a seven-month procedure leading to elections to a constituent assembly and Namibia's independence.

Only the United States fully backs South Africa in backing Resolution 435 with a Cuban withdrawal. There is little chance of the Cubans going until the Angolan Government has defeated or reached a political agreement with the rebel Unita movement of Dr Jonas Savimbi, which is believed still to enjoy Pretoria's support.

In a statement here yesterday on his return from Cape Verde, Dr Van Niekirk disclosed that he had told Mr Nujoma that there was no

used, while waiting for an agreement on the Cubans, for the two sides to "continue shooting", which would be "completely in conflict with the spirit of regional peace created in the past months".

He then issued a warning that South Africa would take "suitable and effective" retaliatory steps "if Swapo continues to commit acts of violence across the border" (from its bases in southern Angola). Other African states, he claimed, would be disappointed by Swapo's intransigence.

Swapo is presumed to be under some military pressure because of an agreement signed in February by South Africa and Angola, under which the latter undertook to end Swapo's use of Angolan soil for guerrilla attacks on Namibia.

## Verbal fisticuffs enliven TV debate

From John Best, Ottawa

Canada's lacklustre federal election campaign has come alive, at least briefly, with a bruising verbal battle between the two main party leaders before a national television audience.

Mr John Turner, the Liberal Prime Minister, and the Conservative leader, Mr Brian Mulroney, were toe-to-toe in front of the cameras on Wednesday night, quarrelling over the country's budget deficit and recent wholesale political appointments.

The third man on the set, Mr Ed Broadbent of the left-wing New Democratic Party, was not in on the exchange, which overshadowed all other issues including the ones in which he showed most interest: unemployment, job creation, and women's rights.

Fur flew when Mr Turner accused Mr Mulroney of "recklessly" proposing programmes that would add \$3,000,000 (\$11,000m) to Canada's already huge national debt, and Mr Mulroney accused Mr Turner of

personally starting the debt spiral when he was Finance Minister years ago.

But that was only a time-up to the bitter confrontation over Mr Turner's part in the recent job appointments - mostly of prominent Liberals - that accompanied the transition of power from Mr Pierre Trudeau to Mr Turner on June 30. The issue has dogged Mr Turner from the start of the campaign. Wednesday's two-hour debate followed one entirely in French the previous night.

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## NEW NATIONAL SAVINGS YEARLY PLAN

## Why fewer are learning German

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The number of people learning German as a foreign language is steadily decreasing throughout the world, and is now down to around 16 million compared with some 20 million 12 years ago, according to the west German foreign ministry. In no country is German still taught as a first foreign language in schools.

Eastern Europe, where German has traditionally been important, now accounts for more than half of all those still learning the language. But interest in German in the Federal Republic's Western neighbours, especially France and Belgium, is declining, and in most countries of the world the domination of English has increasingly threatened the position of German.

Herr Bathold Witte, head of the cultural department of the Foreign Ministry, attributes the decline to the increase in the teaching of science and technology in schools, and says this leaves time for the teaching of only one foreign language. Inevitably English is the common choice.

Interest in German is still growing in some countries, notably in the United States and Canada and in the Far East.

To restore German to its leading role in the world will take a great deal of money and effort, according to Herr Witte. But Bonn is now prepared to increase funds available for cultural activities and language teaching overseas.

## Nicaraguan right in poll boycott

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Conservative opposition parties in Nicaragua have made good their threat to boycott the forthcoming elections for President and a National Assembly.

As registration closed on Wednesday night, only seven of the country's 10 recognized parties had enrolled their candidates. The three abstaining parties said the left-wing Sandinista Government had failed to meet their demands for adequate conditions and three of the parties which did register said their participation was conditional upon the Sandinistas eventually conceding more ground.

The conservative coalition of the Social Democrats, Social Christians and Constitutional Liberals, backed by the private business sector, had made nine demands, but less than 24 hours before registration closed they announced they were focusing on just one point: a dialogue of national reconciliation which would bring the Government into negotiations with leaders of the US-backed counter-revolutionary groups.

It was the point the Sandinistas were always least likely to concede. They have resolutely refused to negotiate with the so-called Contras.

Señor Arturo Cruz, who returned from self-imposed exile in the United States to become the coalition's candidate for President, said he had brought with him a promise from the Contra leaders to lay down their arms if the coalition's demands were met.

## Africar's 20,000-mile test



Three prototypes of a British-designed car, with a hooded plywood chassis and body for lightness and cheapness, have arrived in Kenya after a grueling 20,000 mile journey from the Arctic Circle in Sweden to the Equator.

The Africar, as it is known, is the brainchild of Mr Tony Howarth, of Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria (above, with the cars). He has spent nearly four years on the project.

Mr Howarth said that so far

there had been only minor mechanical problems. The car's unconventional wooden structure had stood up to the most difficult road conditions, ranging from loose sand in the Sahara to virtually non-existent jungle tracks in Zaïre.

The car is designed to be assembled in developing countries using a high percentage of local materials.

The two prototypes are fitted with Citroën engines, but Mr Howarth says he is already designing his own engine.



# Buhari warns Runcie of Nigerian 'frustration' caused by Dikko affair

From Eddie Iroh, Lagos

Nigeria's military leader has told the Archbishop of Canterbury that the present Anglo-Nigerian dispute over Mr Umaru Dikko, the fugitive politician, was caused by the "failure of Britain to understand the frustration of Nigerians."

Such frustration arose from "Nigeria's high expectations of Britain."

Major-General Muhammadu Buhari said. In his first public reference to the Dikko affair, General Buhari asked Dr Robert Runcie and the Anglican clergy to inform the British public that Mr Dikko and other Nigerian fugitives will get a fair trial once they are extradited.

"The mode of trial may not meet British standards," General Buhari said. "But I assure you it is quite high."

Dr Runcie, leading a delegation of bishops attending the current Anglican consultative committee meeting in Badagry, near Lagos, met with General Buhari and other top military government officials at Dodan Barracks, the supreme headquarters of the ruling Military Council, on Wednesday night.

The Archbishop told the general that he hoped for a speedy settlement of the current misunderstanding. He said:

"Disagreements, frankly faced, can be the source of a deeper and more honest relationship in the future. There are strong institutions linking the two countries that will outlast governments and individuals."

A communiqué issued on Wednesday by the Nigerians made no mention of the current diplomatic impasse. But at a press briefing the Information Minister, Group Captain Sam Omura, accused British authorities of "unnecessary harassment"

of Nigerians entering the UK. He said the crew of a Nigerian Airways cargo plane which flew into London recently was subjected to "constant surveillance by uniformed British police". The minister said further acts of provocation against Nigerians over the Dikko affair would not be condoned.

SENTENCES CUT: The Military Council has announced reductions in the 21-year jail sentences passed on three former politicians by the special military tribunals currently trying former officials for economic offences.

A former governor of Rivers state, Chief Melford Okilo, who had been sentenced to 21 years imprisonment for holding two overseas bank accounts in London and the United States worth about £1.5m had the term cut to 10 years because there was no evidence of "unjust enrichment, kickbacks or illegal transfer of money from Nigeria".

Two former commissioners in the now-banned Opposition United Party administration of former governor Ambrose Ali had their sentences cut to five years and Sam Ikedia to 10 years.

General Buhari: High expectations of Britain.

## Barnstorming the South

# Reagan rips into Mondale in drive to lure Democrats

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan, aggressively promising to "barnstorm the country" to lure disaffected Democrats, tore into Mr Walter Mondale yesterday during a huge outdoor rally in Atlanta, Georgia.

Although Georgia is Democratic territory, Mr Jimmy Carter remains the popular native son - Republican strategists believe that the increased political mobilization of blacks inspired by the Rev Jesse Jackson will drive conservative southern Democrats to the Republican camp. Georgia was the only southern state Mr Reagan did not carry in 1980.

Yesterday Mr Reagan said the Democrats had moved so far left they had left the mainstream. The day before in Texas he said they had moved

so far left they had left America. It has clearly become a theme: the Democrats are high-tax, high-spending liberals.

It is the sort of language that might appeal to traditional Dixie Democrats, most of whom are far to the right of the modern Democratic Party.

"The other party apparently thinks the South just isn't important this year, the South just doesn't deserve much attention," Mr Reagan said. "We won't write it off, kiss it off, or try to buy it off."

His rally in Texas drew crowds variously estimated at between 10,000 and 30,000. The Hispanic vote there is extremely influential, which explains the timing of a White

House announcement that a Bill to restrict immigration was "unacceptable" to the President. The Hispanic lobby opposed the measure, known as the Simpson-Mazzoli Bill. The White House announcement has certainly earned Mr Reagan a point in that quarter.

Mr Reagan's strategists are determined to defuse Democratic efforts to label him as a warmonger. The US military presence in Central America has been toned down for the time being, and the administration announced on Wednesday night that a ban of Soviet commercial fishing in American waters had been lifted. The move was described as part of a policy of improving relations with the Soviet Union.

## Howe to hear Hongkong liaison office protests

Hongkong (AFP) - Community leaders will voice their objections to China's proposal for a joint liaison office in Hongkong when Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, arrives here today on his way to Peking, a senior member of the colony's Executive Council said.

Sir Geoffrey will spend 24 hours here before going on to Peking for discussions with Chinese leaders on the future of Hongkong.

The top item in the meeting with unofficial (non government) members of the executive and legislative councils, the colony's political establishment, is expected to be a Chinese proposal for a joint liaison office based in Hongkong after the signing of an agreement handing over sovereignty to China.

The liaison office could constitute interference in Hongkong's affairs, Sir S. Y. Chung, senior unofficial member of the Executive Council, said yesterday.

"If there are disturbances, the Hongkong Government could not ignore the views of the Chinese (liaison) office and would therefore have to compromise. That could be an interference," he said.

He queried whether a joint group was needed for 13 years immediately after the signing of an agreement on the future of the territory after 1997 when Britain's lease expires

Sir Geoffrey will have meetings this morning first with the Executive Council, the colony's equivalent of a Cabinet, and then with the Legislative Council. Both bodies were appointed by the governor but under proposals published last week, Hongkong is to introduce limited indirect elections for the councils over the next five years.

## October date for postponed visit to Israel

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is planning an official visit to Israel in October provided that the complex political negotiations now in progress have by then managed to produce a new Government.

The announcement of his visit, postponed because it would have clashed with this week's inconclusive general election was made yesterday by Mr David Kimche, director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry at a function for the outgoing British Ambassador, Mr Patrick Moberly.

Mr Kimche paid fulsome tribute to the recent gradual improvement in Anglo-Israeli relations which he said could be traced back originally from the visit paid here in 1982 by the former Conservative Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington.

## Zimbabwe slashes expenditure

From Ian Raath, Harare

Warning that the country is living beyond its means, Dr Bernard Chidzero, Zimbabwe's Minister of Finance, yesterday presented a budget featuring dramatic cuts in government spending.

Expenditure will be reduced by about 12 per cent, to the equivalent of £1,239m. Ministries affected include Defence, Education, Health and Social Services, whose drought relief programme was halved, to £15m.

Figures tabled in Parliament estimated debt repayments over the coming year at £165m, with another £207m earmarked for interest charges. Together the sums represent 18 per cent of the total appropriation of £2,033m.

Dr Chidzero said there was a budget deficit of £388m. "We are looking ourselves into a consumption pattern which can only be sustained by a massive resort to borrowing."

To raise revenue, Dr Chidzero placed a drought levy of 10 per cent on companies, effectively raising the level of company tax to 56 per cent.

He also increased the price of petrol by about 8 per cent, placed a 20 per cent tax on foreign currency allowances and introduced £10 airport tax. But, with a possible eye to the elections in February, Dr Chidzero also reduced sales tax by 3 per cent, to 20 per cent on luxuries and 15 per cent on other goods.



Sky's the limit: Svetlana Savitskaya, world record at parachute jumping, too

## Woman's first step in space

By Andrew Wiseman

Flight Engineer Svetlana Savitskaya who on Wednesday became the first woman to walk in space, is also a Soviet cosmonaut's dream. She is aged 35 - and likely to celebrate her thirty-sixth birthday on board Salyut 7 on August 8 and has held world records in parachute jumping and flying. In 1970 she became the overall world aerobics champion at RAF Hallowington.

She is the grand-daughter of a railway worker and her father was a Second World War flyer who shot down 24 German aircraft and became an air marshal and deputy commander-in-chief of the Soviet anti-aircraft command.

She says however that he never helped her. When Svetlana, as her friends call her, was training to become a test pilot, the commanding officer was a wartime friend of "Dragon" - her father's call sign. Faithful to her sobriquet, her father telephoned the training school to tell his friend: "You have my daughter there. If she is no good, sling her out."

Miss Savitskaya, who joined the Communist Party in 1975, is stubborn, hard-working and determined. She tried to join a flying club when she was only 16. She is also extremely calm. She is the only woman to have made two space trips and her presence aboard Salyut 7 will help research into the

psychological and physiological effects of space travel on women.

Additionally, simulation flights on earth have showed that male members on board space craft tend to work better and show greater interest in what they are doing when a woman joins them.

Although Miss Savitskaya believes in the equality of sexes, she must have been touched when she was welcomed by the men with a bunch of cosmic eye daisies, grown in the "stellar greenhouse" as she floated into Salyut 7. But, a companion to the last, she returned them immediately. After all, they are part of a scientific experiment.

## Firemen set fires to save jobs

Boston (AP) - Seven men, including two firemen and two policemen, have been charged with setting 163 fires, causing \$22m in damages and injuring 282 people during a 14-month span.

Prosecutors said the arson case - the largest in US history - was prompted, in part, to halt fire and police department layoffs after a tax cut.

A federal indictment issued on Wednesday alleges that the seven began setting fires in refuse cans to frighten residents, but later targeted commercial and residential buildings when the smaller blazes failed to attract enough attention.

Firefighters said they were stunned by the indictments. "These guys were sick puppies," said Boston fire captain Mr Matthew Corbett, "trying to understand their reason for doing this is impossible. They weren't helping firefighters - they were endangering firefighters' lives."

The indictment said the fires were set mainly to force the city to rehire police and firefighters laid off after a wide-ranging tax cut aimed at reducing the public payroll went into effect in July, 1981.

The fires, set between February 19, 1982, and April 27, 1983, caused \$22m worth of damage and injured 282 people, including 65 firefighters.

The buildings burnt included homes, restaurants, factories, churches, a Marine Corps barracks and the Massachusetts Fire Academy. "This is the largest arson case in history, both state and federal, in terms of the number of fires," said U.S. Attorney Mr William Weld.

## Cash to emigrate campaign Kahane set for anti-Arab drive

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the unashamedly racist Kach party - a man who has been arrested many times during his 13 years in Israel - has drawn up plans to use his new-won parliamentary immunity to defy the law and mount a campaign to force the two million Arabs in Israel and the occupied territories to emigrate.

In an outspoken interview with *The Times*, the Brooklyn-born rabbi said that the day after he takes his Knesset seat next month his party will establish a temporary office in Um al-Fahm - one of Israel's main Arab towns - and use it to pay "sizeable compensation" to every Arab family prepared to leave the country.

"I shall give them a month to take the money, and then move the office to another Arab town and so on. After the four weeks, there are other ways of getting them to go."

"I know many good Jews who are prepared to put up the cash this operation, which is vital if we are to have a proper Jewish state. Eventually I hope the money will come from the Government."

The rabbi is well aware of the provocative nature of his scheme, but shows a clutch of congratulatory telegrams to anyone prepared to query it. "I shall expect the Israeli police to provide us with proper protection when we go into that nest of vipers. I cannot do it before I take my seat, because then I shall end up in jail."

We were speaking shortly before the Kach - it means "thunder" - leader went on to a triumphant walkabout among his hardline supporters in Jerusalem's largest open-air market. As he pushed through

the crowds, there were cries of "Arabs out" and "Death to the Arabs".

"At one point, the rabbi said: 'I shall deal with every one of them personally.'"

Although his election has dismayed many Israelis - one senior Foreign Ministry official suggested to me yesterday that the President should refuse to see him when he consults with all Knesset factions next week - there was no denying from his welcome in the Mahane Yehuda market, that there is also a vocal minority which it has delighted.

Agud 51, articulate and ruthlessly single-minded, Rabbi Kahane has proved himself the most controversial new Knesset deputy, whose actions in the few days since polling have already caused concern to the police. It is understood they have appointed a team of experts to study in detail the full implications of the parliamentary immunity laws.

A constant theme in the rabbi's arguments is the high Arab birthrate - at many election rallies he referred to their breeding "like bunnies" - and also the dangers of Jewish women being seduced by Arabs. "If they (the Arabs) are not attacking us with bullets, it is with babies and it must be stopped."

The father of four children (one is serving in the Army) and founder in 1968 of the Jewish Defence League in New York, Rabbi Kahane is a leader who realises the power to shock and who shows every intention of fully exploiting his democratically won platform.

Jerusalem's Mayor, Mr Teddy Kollek, this week described him to a group of American Jews as "a stain on Israeli democracy". The rabbi's parliamentary immunity would reinforce his opinions and activities are likely to become the symbol of Israel and Judaism in the eyes of the world.

Rabbi Kahane: Relishes his power to shock.

## Labour MEPs anger allies

From Ian Murray, Brussels

British Labour MEPs mean to make Mr Ivor Richard face a reelection contest for his seat on the European Commission during this year's Labour Party conference. They aim to have a new procedure approved by the National Executive Committee of the party, with nominations submitted in time for a vote at the conference.

This move is typical of the strategy of the new, bigger British Labour group in the European Parliament. Yesterday it provoked a big row within the Parliament's Socialist group, bringing the charge by leading members from other countries that it was using "Stalinist techniques".

The dispute broke out during a meeting to select chairmen of the different specialist committees of the Parliament. As the largest group the Socialists have both the automatic right to run four committees and first choice of any committee available.

Mr Piet Dankert, who lost his job as president of the parliament to M Pierre Pflimlin this week, expected that by right of

seniority he would automatically be given the chair of the very powerful budget committee. But the British Labour group decided to vote against him because they considered he was too right-wing.

The Labour members quizzed Dr Dankert about his statement of a year ago that he would be tempted to vote for the SDP if the west British. They were also not convinced that Mr Dankert was sufficiently opposed to the deployment of nuclear missiles.

They therefore formed an alliance with French Socialists to outvote Mr Dankert and appoint the former French Development Minister, Mr Jean Pierre Cot.

But what particularly infuriated other members of the group was that the British Labour members had an open vote. Leading members of the group inspected every British ballot paper.

This is what provoked the "Stalinist" jibe from Mrs Ien van den Heuvel, one of the most senior members of the Parliament and a strong left-

winger in the Dutch party.

She was applauded by other members who sit on the committees, and despondent socialists from other countries were claiming that they saw as the strong left-wing dominance in the new British Labour group was threatening to poison the atmosphere of the whole parliament.

Group members were, however, unrepentant, and Dr Barry Seal, the chief whip, explained that open voting was now normal practice within the party.

It was Dr Seal who wrote yesterday to the party's NEC to demand reelection for Mr Richard. "All key jobs representing our people are filled after an election process and that rule must apply to our European Commissioners too," he said.

Dr Seal, who claims to be much further to the left than Mr Richard, added: "A re-election test will ensure that Labour's commissioner vigorously pursues the party's policy priorities."

## Islamic law provokes walkout in Pakistan

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

All the women and minority members present yesterday at Pakistan's Federal Council, which has been functioning in place of the defunct Parliament for the past three years, staged a walk-out against proposed Islamic legislation which would include blood money for murder and life for life provisions. They described the key clauses as discriminatory.

The draft Law of Qisas and Diyat (law against those of human life) has been under discussion in the House of Commons since 1980. It has provoked many months, because of the controversy between women and some other members, on one side, and fundamentalist and orthodox Muslim members on the other. Disagreement centres on a number of clauses, particularly those relating to the evidence of women witnesses and compensation for the murder of a woman or a member of a minority community.

The controversy led in April this year to the replacement of House committee which was evenly divided on the issue by a larger committee of the Federal Council (also called Majlis Shura) headed by Mr Zafar Hagi, Pakistan's Minister for Information and Religious Affairs.

Among the members who walked out at the House began the final stage of discussion of the draft law were 10 women, three minority members and a number of others, including the three members of the previous House committee who had opposed the Government draft relating to evidence by women and compensation.

One member of the Federal Council, Syed Said Hassan, who was among those who walked out, said that proceedings after the walkout were void because of the lack of a quorum.

More than 200 amendments tabled by the opponents of some of the key provisions of the law were withdrawn by their proposers to demonstrate their disapproval of the procedures adopted by the chair.

## Paddington Bear case minister to stand down

Canberra (Reuters) - Mr Mick Young, an Australian Cabinet Minister, relinquished his post yesterday pending the outcome of an inquiry into a scandal over a false customs declaration that has become known as the "Paddington Bear affair".

Mr Young, aged 47, had been given back his job as a Special Minister of State in January, six months after quitting for leaking news that Australia would expel a Soviet diplomat for spying.

He became involved in further controversy after declaring that to the best of his knowledge baggage sent by his wife from Europe did not contain "durable items". Customs officials found that the baggage did contain items requiring import duty, including a large toy "Paddington Bear", perfume, dolls, handbags and purses.

The Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, said that Mr Young would "stand aside" from his post but would continue to receive his salary.

## Poles flee by crop-sprayer

Stockholm (Reuters) - Seven Poles landed in southern Sweden escorted by two Swedish fighters after escaping to the West in a crop-spraying plane.

The refugees, a couple with three children and two men, flew across the Baltic in a single-engine Antonov 7 and asked for political asylum.

## Death of a salesman

Tokyo (Reuters) - A salesman hanged himself after learning of financial problems faced by his company. In a note, Takeo Umehashi, aged 51, who worked for a sewing machine firm, said: "I worked earnestly for the firm for 21 years, and I do not wish to destroy happy memories."

## Mole ruled out

Canberra (AFP) - Australia's security intelligence organization has rejected claims that the former British intelligence chief, Sir Roger Hollis, planted Soviet "moles" in its ranks. Claims that a Soviet defector had warned of KGB penetration in the 1960s were also dismissed by the Attorney-General, Mr Gareth Evans.

## Nuclear hitch

Middletown (AFP) - Three workers were slightly contaminated during preliminary clean-up operations at the so-called Three Mile Island nuclear power plant here in Pennsylvania. Another worker was contaminated after lifting his protective face mask.

## Freedom swim

Corfu (AP) - Two Albanians of Greek origin escaped to Greece last weekend by swimming across a 15-mile strait that separates a small Greek island from the self-isolated communist state. A third man, who set out with them, disappeared during the swim.

## Poll upset

Kingstown (Reuters) - The opposition New Democratic Party won an upset victory in the general election in St Vincent and the Grenadines. At least three ministers in the outgoing government lost their seats.

## Tribes threat

Port Moresby (Reuters) - Tribesmen armed with bows and arrows said they would blockade a gold mine in Papua New Guinea unless it paid compensation for spilling cyanide into their river, killing fish and crocodiles.

## Soviet refusal

Hamburg (Reuters) - The Soviet Union has refused to discuss a Western appeal against the practice of confiscating mail, the World Postal Union Congress president, Mr Winfried Florian said.

## Plane restricted

Washington (Reuters) - The United States Navy has imposed flight restrictions on its 148 new F-18 fighter planes because of signs of excess stress on the tail during steep climbs in certain wind conditions.

## Afghan helped

Brussels (AFP) - 2,900,000 Afghan refugees The Pakistan are to receive \$96m from the European Economic Community to help with self-sufficiency in food.

## 60 drowned

Freetown (Reuters) - Sixty people are believed to have died when a passenger boat capsized off the southern coast of Sierra Leone, the daily *New Citizen* said.

## Monkey tricks

Heilbronn (AP) - Six chimpanzees escaped from a private zoo in this West German town and went on a day-long rampage, attacking a man and terrorizing a kindergarten before police killed one and captured the others. A press photographer was treated for bites and scratches.

## SHAH NEVER DIES

As He Is Always Alive in Our Hearts  
July 27, Iranian National Day of Mourning

On the black day of July 27, 1981, HIM Mohammed-Reza Pahlavi, Shahanshah Aryamehr, the sovereign of the prosperous nation of Iran died. Iran lost a very great father and the world lost a splendid and noble statesman. His death was followed by those of over a million people and the eventual total destruction of Iran and the magnificent achievements of the Pahlavi Dynasty.

The betrayed and suffering nation of Iran cherishes his memory today and every day.

Iranians implore His Imperial Majesty Reza II, the young Shah of Iran, to return, since only he can be their saviour from the present barbaric and hellish regime of Khomeini.

## LONG LIVE REZA SHAH II, THE PEOPLE'S SHAH OF IRAN

Issued by Iranian Monarchists in Britain  
PO Box 432, London W4 4DS



## Lange takes the helm as New Zealand heads into harder times

From W. P. Reeves  
Wellington

Twelve days after winning power in the snap election, the Labour Government is now licensed to exercise it - the constitutional niceties of a legislative changeover in New Zealand having been observed. Mr David Lange's Government was sworn in at Government House yesterday, an hour after Sir Robert Muldoon formally tendered his Administration's resignation.

The Government-elect had not been idle, though. It obliged a reluctant caretaker Government to devalue by 20 per cent to stop a run on the dollar, free interest rates from regulation and impose price controls to match those on wages for the next three months.

The Government expects to use this lead time to formulate a comprehensive policy to turn the economy around. The package is expected to be announced in the budget, planned for October. The public have been warned not to look for concessions, though some relief is likely for those at the bottom of the income scale.

The shape of the Government's economic thinking will be influenced by a meeting of representatives of many sectors which is being arranged for September.

The idea, owing something to the strategy adopted by Mr Bob

### Leadership challenge for Muldoon

Sir Robert Muldoon's leadership of the National Party is expected to be questioned at a meeting today of the party's ruling council. Sir Robert, who led the party to defeat in the snap election two weeks ago, disputes the council's jurisdiction over his position and maintains that he has the special qualities needed to lead the assault to unseat the newly-installed Labour government.

The council meeting will be followed by a four-day annual conference of the party, which is also expected to reveal mixed feelings about the leadership.

Hawke's Australian Labour Government on taking office, reflects Mr Lange's consensus style. He won wide endorsement from his business, farmers and unions on his devaluation plans.

September's conference is expected to be a larger and more representative affair. It will coincide with the opening of Parliament. The intention is for Parliament to sit through into next year with only a short recess at Christmas. Part of Labour's plan for parliamentary reform is to extend the number of sitting days; sessions have

frequently occupied fewer than five months of the year.

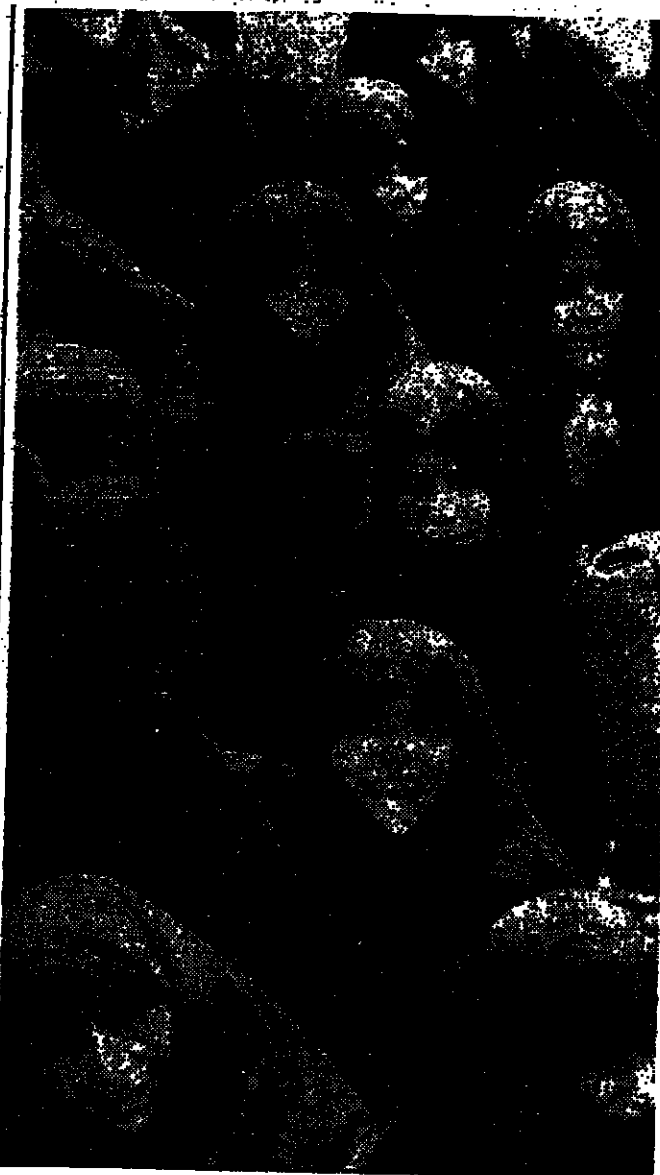
Heading into harder economic times, the Government is bound to find it difficult to maintain the broad-based support it now enjoys. Mr Lange has conceded that inflation, below 5 per cent today, will climb back into double figures next year.

A farmers' conference in Wellington this week gave a warning that the Government will be kept under scrutiny. Similarly, the Federation of Labour implied that its support is not unconditional.

The devaluation has caused a run on new cars and other consumer items with imported content.

The niggles for Mr Lange on the international front is Anzus. He is yet to reconcile the determination of his party to block visits by nuclear warships with the complaint of the other two partners, the United States and Australia, that denial of port facilities would threaten the defence alliance.

Mr Lange sharply reproved President Reagan for a remark on Wednesday that he had "every reason to be optimistic" that Mr Lange's Government would not go ahead with the ban. Mr Lange was reported yesterday to have said: "I hope his other pronouncements on foreign policy have more grounding in fact than that one."



Cover-up drive: Part of a large march by women in Tehran supporting efforts to enforce Islamic dress.

## Salzburg hit by Karajan dispute

Salzburg (AP) - Austria's most celebrated music festival opened yesterday to strains of discord, with the Berlin Philharmonic refusing to perform under its conductor, Herbert von Karajan.

Her von Karajan was to direct the orchestra in performances today and tomorrow, but officials in Berlin said that the musicians, who have been engaged in a prolonged feud with the conductor, would not appear with him.

The open rift left festival organizers at least temporarily without a programme for these dates.

"We are still thinking it over," said Dr Hans Widrich, director of the festival press centre.

The dispute stems from the hiring of a female clarinetist, at Her von Karajan's request without the approval of orchestra members. The clarinetist, Sabine Meyer, has since left. The man who hired her, the former manager, Herr Peter Girth, has been dismissed.

The dispute prompted Her von Karajan to cancel an engagement here with the orchestra on June 11. Instead, he appeared with the rival Vienna Philharmonic. Relations have been at the breaking point since then. The orchestra announced that it would reject all engagements with Her von Karajan, who is 76, until he personally explained his position.

## Tear gas thrown at Manila commuters

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Philippine riot police tossed tear gas canisters among rush hour crowds in central Manila yesterday to disperse several hundred demonstrators denouncing a similar tear gas attack three days earlier.

Riot police wearing gas masks and riding in three Jeeps hurled tear gas among 400 demonstrators causing hundreds of pedestrians and bus passengers to flee in panic.

Shopkeepers boarded up their stores fearing more trouble, but no arrests were made.

The dispersal of the march was prompted by unruly behaviour among the demonstrators, police said.

Bystanders, however, said the demonstrators were struggling from the main body of marchers and were dispersing peacefully when the tear gas was thrown.

The police action came at the end of the four-hour rally by 1,500 demonstrators who were stopped from marching on police headquarters by 500 helmeted riot police backed by two water cannons.

The riot squad, armed with batons and shields, lined up behind a military Jeep carrying five masked troopers to block off both ends of a crowded street to stop the march which had no permit.

After negotiations with rally organizers police allowed the students, workers, nuns and priests to march up to the road block but not beyond it.

Chanting "Marcos, Hitler, dictator, dog", the demonstrators proceeded to the

Manila city hall and had begun to disperse when the tear gas was thrown.

Meanwhile, five decrees which make rebellion and subversion capital offences and give President Marcos sweeping arrest and detention powers have come under opposition attack in the new National Assembly.

Their repeal was sought by the opposition MP Mr Harnando Perez in four covering parliamentary Bills which denounced the decrees as unconstitutional and a threat to the people's rights.

The filing of the Bills, three days after the inauguration of the new assembly, conforms with the opposition's election pledge to seek the repeal of presidential decrees which violate human rights.

A separate Bill to strip President Marcos of his legislative powers has also been filed and presidential impeachment proceedings are being considered. President Marcos, however, has already begun issuing decrees.

One day after he opened the new 200-member National Assembly with a pledge to limit his decree-making powers to emergencies or when Parliament was either not in session or unable to act, he issued a decree on new gambling laws.

The five decrees under attack have been denounced as "unacceptable and detestable" by the Philippine Bar Association and "sweeping and sinister" by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

## Power station pollution row Chorus of protests makes Bonn relent

From Michael Blayen, Bonn

The row over the Government's proposal to start up a new coal-fired power plant without emission filters has forced the Cabinet to put off a decision while it looks again at ways of curbing the threatened pollution.

Vigorous opposition to the Buschhaus power plant, situated near the East German border, led to Parliament voting almost unanimously last month against a start up until filters had been fitted to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions. The proposal by Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, the Minister of the Interior responsible for the environment, to go ahead was attacked as a cynical disregard of Parliament's wishes.

The Free Democrats in the Cabinet, who also expressed

which are intended to demonstrate West Germany's firm commitment to costly new measures to reduce air pollution.

The new regulations provide for a drastic reduction in the most deadly substances, especially lead, cadmium, nickel, mercury, cyanide and fluoride, and correspondingly lower reduction for some 120 less dangerous compounds.

The Government expects strong opposition from industry, which will have to modify both old and new factories.

Herr Zimmermann recently convened an international conference on the environment in Munich, and West Germany is one of the most active countries in pressing for coordinated measures to cut air pollution in order to save dying forests.

The Buschhaus plant was approved before today's stricter sulphur dioxide emission standards were in force. But under the new plan the total amount that will be emitted in West Germany is due to fall by at least 1.6 million tonnes a year by 1993, a cut of 50 per cent on the 1980 total of 3.2 million tonnes.

The minister also wants Government rebates to offset the higher cost of cars fitted with catalyzers to burn up exhaust carbon. This will be compulsory when Germany introduces lead-free petrol in 1986. Some members of the Government oppose the plan for rebates during the 1986-89 transition period, however, on the grounds that consumers will be forced to buy the more expensive cars in any case.

Meanwhile, calls have increased for special environment protection police in Germany following the scandal over the sale of adulterated heating oil in West Berlin, which inspectors said could produce deadly dioxin if burnt in household boilers.

The West Berlin prosecutor is investigating seven firms over the sale of the oil, which was confiscated after it was found that 7,000 tonnes of fuel oil had been illegally mixed with 25 tonnes of used oil contaminated with chlorine and sulphur compounds.

## Obote rules out meeting guerrillas

From Charles Harrison  
Nairobi

President Obote says he will not consider meeting representatives of groups which have been carrying out guerrilla attacks against his government in Uganda for more than three years.

Winding up the budget debate in Kampala, he instead called on his enemies to come out of the bush and join in efforts to rehabilitate Uganda.

He attacked opposition MPs for suggesting that the Ugandan economy had not benefited from the overthrow of Idi Amin's dictatorship in 1979, but said time was needed to repair the decay resulting from eight years of military rule.

President Obote denied that his budget, which gives civil servants salary increases averaging 450 per cent was an electioneering move. He appeared to indicate that he will not call a snap election this year. Elections are due by the end of next year.

## Italy cuts detention before trial

From Peter Nichols  
Rome

Several thousand prisoners are expected to be freed between Christmas and spring after approval by parliament of legislation reducing the permitted length in custody while awaiting trial.

The new law comes into full effect within six months, and cuts the period before trial for almost all types of crime, including offences by minors.

The most serious charges a prisoner can face are those involving terrorism or Mafia activities punishable by life imprisonment. In such cases, the period of imprisonment before a final verdict has been reduced from 10 years and eight months to six-and-a-half years.

Under the new regulations, the inquiry into serious offences while a suspect is held must be completed within two years, while a year-and-a-half is allowed for the preparation of each of three appeals.

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The producer who floods the small screen with soap serials and detective series talks to Alan Franks



## Founder of a TV Dynasty

Aaron Spelling, the producer of *Dynasty* and umpteen other television blockbusters such as *Starsky and Hutch* and *Charlie's Angels* looks very much at home in the marble-venered colonnades of the reception area of the Dorchester Hotel in London.

As he sits there and holds court, with the top-hatted flunkies in attendance, the backdrop takes on the appearance of one of his own sumptuous but vacuous sets, in which the acquisitive passions of the commercial ascendancy play themselves out towards a tragicomic climax.

These past two weeks he has been gliding in a limousine around the summer London of the American tourist, a place which is as much a parody of the society from which it springs as are his own dramatic confections.

On the pavement he spots a very old gent with a stringy neck disappearing into a shiny white collar and morning coat. "There, that's how I like to think of the real old England", he says, with the zeal of a foreign correspondent stumbling on the essence of his assignment.

Spelling would like to have met the Queen Mother - she's a fan - during his brief stay over here, and reckons he could have swung it through the good offices of his old friend, Lord Grade.

But today he is halfway back to the States on the QE2, he abhors flying - and must console himself with memories of Windsor, Horse Guards and the Changing of the Keys at the Tower of London.

He says: "I just love all the pomp and circumstance. It makes you feel as if you belong. It's much harder for that to happen in a republic like ours."

"Nancy Reagan has done more for the White House than any president's wife since Jackie Kennedy but she'll never really be able to create an aura of

royalty because they're only there for stretches of four years. "Your dynasty here continues. You go by the Tower and you know that Oliver Cromwell built it in the year 1040... oh, is that not right?"

Caught in such fulsome spate, with a transferred patriotism more British than British, he reminds one of Peter Ustinov's character in *Romanoff and Juliet* who declares: "I love history. It's so old."

In the circumstances it is impossible not to talk about the Royal Family, the ultimate expression of the dynastic ideal - more specifically - to ask the millionaire producer how he would cast a screen version.

"Aw, that's a good charade", he says gamely, "but I want to make it clear that I'd treat it with the dignity it deserves. Er, the Queen Mother, I guess, could be played by Bette Davis."

"The Queen... hell, this is tough. I don't know anyone of that age who's that stately. Maybe Lee Remick... with make-up. The Duke of Edinburgh? Er, John Forsyth, if he weren't doing a *Dynasty*."

Prince Charles? "I'll tell you, I'm glad I'll have left when this comes out... Warren Beatty could have played the part a few years ago. And Princess Anne (a very long pause punctuated with cryptic mirth), Jacqueline Smith of *Charlie's Angels*."

Prince Andrew? "Do you mean the one you know or the one we know? His reputation is even wilder in the US than it is here."

The one we know. "That one would have more dignity than the one we know. Rick Springfield. He's a very big vocalist, and right now he's also starring in a daytime called *General Hospital*. Or the young Elvis."

Princess Margaret? "Her I'm not too familiar with. That's the one with... yeah, Lord Snowdon. And Peter Townsend. How old is she now?... Oh, fifty. What about Liz Taylor?

They've had the same sort of history."

If it ever happened - and there is the glint of temptation in his eye as he does the casting - it would be, whatever else, full of serenity and celebration. None of the undiluted villains thrown up by the American oil aristocracies.

Spelling is 59, with hair like a Brillo pad that has been dipped in Grecian 2000, and eyes that are far too kind and full of self-effacement to belong to a tycoon.

There is a Woody Allen struggling (and managing) to get out of the Sam Goldwyn: "I came out to Hollywood as an actor and I did 42 TV shows and I knew that with my looks I was just not going to make it. But I'd always wanted to write."

"While I was acting I used to listen to the lines and think how goddam awful the dialogue was. I tried for three years to sell a TV script, all without success. Eventually I got one accepted, but because money was tight they couldn't cast Edward G. Robinson."

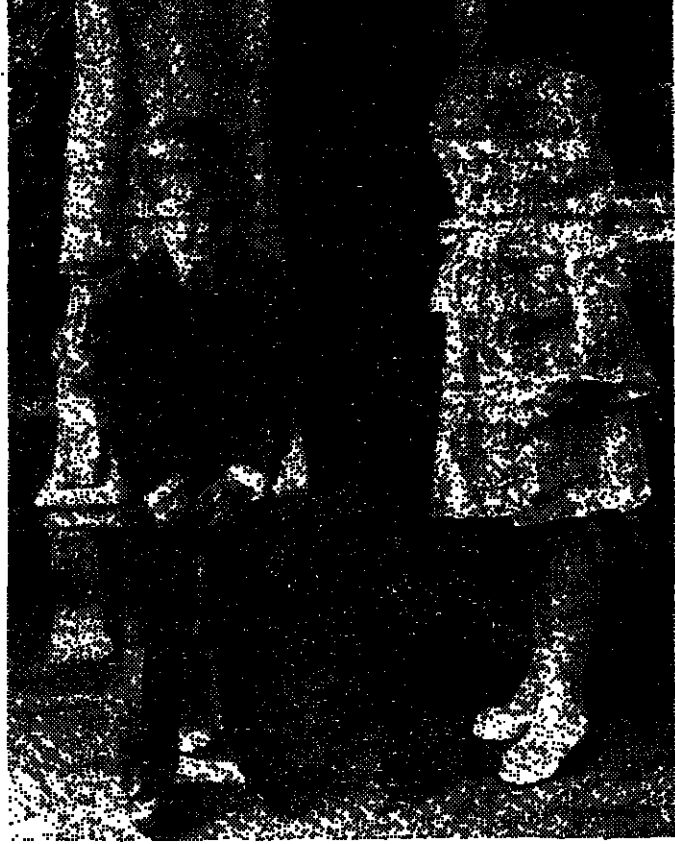
"It was an Italian part, played in the end by someone who was a talking a-like a-thiss. It was so terrible that I went into the bathroom and threw up, literally. I regretted it."

"I swore then that I'd never write anything which I didn't produce. And that's why I'm a producer."

He is president of Aaron Spelling Productions and *Dynasty* is just the tip of his almost fathomless output. *Fantasy Island* is one of his, so are *Mad Squad*, *T. J. Hooker* and *Love Boat*, the biggest money-spinner of them all.

He now has 1,500 employees and an aggregate annual production cost of \$90m. Laid end to end, as it were, his recorded entertainment, at the rate of 24 hours a day, would stretch for more than a month.

He works a 12-hour day but his week has now been commuted to four days by his young



wife, Candy. During their 15 years of marriage they have never managed a vacation, which probably explains why this week they have been consuming London so voraciously.

Candy, as all the Spellings' interviewers must remark, looks like one of his leading ladies, and the impression is strengthened when you learn they have just bought Bing Crosby's old home in California and are doing it up over 18 months, for sum which I do not even dare to ask.

So it comes as a colossal relief to see her smile without cracking the make-up or baring a predatory fang.

We are always told that soap and sitcom, almost in spite of

themselves, are giving us the most reliable pointers to the state of the American bourgeoisie and filthy rich. So it is surprising when Spelling says, firstly, that he doesn't do any sitcom as it is "an impossibly hard form", and second, that *Dynasty* is way off the mark.

"An accurate picture? Oh no, no, no, no. He makes the suggestion seem preposterous. "It's somewhere between escapism and being a safety valve. By that I mean that people love to laugh at the rich, and we give them the opportunity."

"I mean, nobody could behave like that. I know people behave oddly, but not that oddly. Do they? You'd have to be some kind of sexual giant, or giantess if there is such a word."

Stars of Aaron Spelling's television world (top, from left): The glamour girl private eyes of *Charlie's Angels*; Joan Collins and John Forsyth, the ever warring Alexs and Blake in *Dynasty*; and the unorthodox detectives of *Starsky and Hutch*, played by David Soul and Paul Michael Glaser. Left: Spelling the family man with wife Candy, son Randy and daughter Tori.

"I'd find it hard to believe that a man like Colby had a heart attack while making love to Joan Collins, with her slapping his face and saying, 'Don't die on me, don't die on me!'"

It has not all gone Spelling's way. There was a show called *Family* which, although running to more than 100 episodes, did not appease the hungry god of US television ratings and was taken off the air. Even though it failed to attract the audiences, its success in Spelling's own suppressed scale of values remains high.

The show set out to portray, without undue hysteria, the middle-class American family, and to place the function of the unit in the context of its society.

Apparently, it got it all so right that no one wanted to watch. Viewers could have got as much from a transparent screen-sized hatch into their neighbours' breakfast room.

Either American audiences did not have the appetite which can sustain an *Archers* or a *Coronation Street*, or Spelling had become a victim of his own artifice - venacity was no substitute for audacity, and he must surely take some of the blame.

He still speaks of the series as though it were a beautiful, gifted daughter who was just too good to become a star.

He says: "You won't see a show like that for years. It was so soft, so real, that there was no audience. Now, four years after it went off the screen, whenever I lecture, women stand up with tears in their eyes, real tears, and they say, 'Mr Spelling, can you please, please get *Family* back? And I just have to say no because of the ratings."

The machine goes on turning and the footage materializes, more and more of it, as unstemmable as the candy floss being spun from the basin of a fairground van - *Love Boat*.

Matt Houston, *Hotel*, with the biggest set in the history of film (that includes movies as well as television). In September on ABC there will be *Glitter*, starring David Birney and Morgan Brittany, and *Finder of Lost Loves*, starring Tony Franciosa and Deborah Adair.

The big shows have a "Bible", which is "that thick". Spelling stretches his thumb and forefinger - with a team of several scriptwriters, each handling an allocation of pages.

Somehow one can't imagine a J.R. coming from the stable, and not can Spelling. "Well, at first the Joan Collins character was a bit like him, very dark, but never a complete anti-hero."

"Bitchy she may be, but she loves her kids. She'll do anything for them... yeah, maybe they should get married, her and J.R. We could have half an hour of it on *Dallas* and half an hour on *Dynasty*". The location might be a problem, but there's always Bing Crosby's old house.

In the foyer of the Dorchester the Spellings run into the American film producer, Ray Stark, who is wearing jeans and seems to have a Renoir original in a file he is holding.

There is a flurry of wise-cracking about the Old Masters, and Stark reassures Candy about the question of the Monet and her new house: "Just don't worry about it. Monets go anywhere."

She says they got the place only so that they had room for the tree which he gave them. It was a redwood.

And into the Daimler, with an immaculately blazered English escort riding shotgun next to the chauffeur. Old England is passing by through a glass darkly - palace, park, Nelson, arch, gallery, and city gents everywhere as if auditioning for bit parts.

"Wonder why Ray had a pencil Renoir", says Spelling. "Maybe he got tired of all the painted ones."

moreover... Miles Kingdon

## How to play the game of the name

There are three great problems facing the world today. One is poverty, one is hunger, and one is knowing what to say when you have forgotten the name of people at a party when you're about to introduce them. It is probably best to start with problems which we can all help solve, so our computer has been put on to the last dorny dilemma.

You know the scene, don't you? There are two people standing in front of you at a party. They know you, but they don't know each other. They look hopefully yet hopelessly at you, like someone on *Mastermind* sneaking an anguished look at Magnus Magnusson. You open your mouth and suddenly realize that their names have vanished. It's too late to close your mouth again. Something's got to come out of it. But what?

The computer suggests any of the following.

"I wonder if you can guess what you two have got in common?"

"I'll have to leave you two to introduce yourselves. I've just remembered I have to phone the New York Exchange."

"Refills first - introductions afterwards. Back in a second."

"Oh Lord, that's my bleep - I'll have to go and deal with it."

"Quite honestly, I think you two would hate each other. I daren't take the risk."

"This is Roger. And this is Roger too. I'm calling everyone Roger tonight."

"My God, I'm sorry - I'll get a cloth."

"Do you know that person over there? He's just been waving violently for you to go and join him."

"Darling, this is the Magnus Magnusson of the outer suburbs."

While we were at it, we faced the computer with another social problem. What do you do at a party when the person who's been drowsing on at you suddenly expects you to answer, and you haven't heard a word he's said or you've given up listening? And you know that Yes, or No, or Come again simply won't do? Here are the computer suggestions.

"I've just remembered who you remind me of."

"Has anyone told you you've got some funny white stuff on your ear-lobe?"

"You got all that from *The Guardian*, didn't you?"

"Talking to you is like being on Robin Day's *Question Time* and I mean that in the nicest possible way. Incidentally, how do you suppose they select his audiences?"

"Can you smell burning?"

"Good Lord - I've just seen Eamonn Andrews. What do you suppose he's doing here? No he's vanished now."

"Well, as the philosopher said - *Sublata causa, tollitur effectus*."

"You really are the Magnus Magnusson of the outer suburbs, aren't you?"

And while it was at it, the computer threw in a couple of political jokes it has been working on, to try out at parties.

"If a Tory ever has any spare cash, he orders champagne. If a Socialist has a cash surplus, he donates it to the working class, so let's order champagne!"

"I'd be worried if I were Mr Thatcher. When the Tory Party thinks their leader is becoming a loser, they chop their ruthlessly. It's different with Labour - when they spot a loser, they make him party leader."

"They call him Stormy Mondale, but Tuesday's just as bad."

This last one is fairly surrealistic, but of course the computer doesn't get out and about very much. Reports, please, from anyone who tries these lines out at parties.

In answer to several queries about the British geographical days of the week, this must be a reference to the old list of towns as follows: *Murdered*, *Despatch*, *Wednesday*, *Thursday*, *Friday*, *Saturday*, *Sunday*.

## Tomorrow

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Geraldine Norman analyses how different sections of the auction market fared during the past year

## How stakes were raised in the sale rooms

This is the year people went back to buying art because they liked the look of it. Collectors and museums vied with each other for the very best items in every field, sending prices up to levels hitherto not dreamed of, a manuscript to £3.1m, a drawing to £3.6m, and a teddy bear to £420.

The middle market, however, comprising the less rare, less beautiful, rather damaged or just less fashionable, was having a rough ride. When buyers do not like it, it will not sell at any price.

And home decoration is back as a major component of buying. The decorator, whether private or professional, minds a lot about what things look like. Furniture is in great demand, with the odd and attractive selling at a premium. Ming vases are being bought as lamp stands and silver to decorate the dining room table.

Geographically, American buying has been the most powerful force in the market, helped by a strong dollar exchange rate.

**Pictures**  
The top of the market saw fierce competition with Lord Clark's Turner seascape doubling the records for a picture at £7.4m, the superb Old Master drawings from Chatsworth making £21m when only £7m was expected and a single evening sale of Impressionist and modern pictures making £28m at Sotheby's in New York.

Among the moderns the best fetched high prices, but second-rate pictures by great names were difficult to sell. There were some astonishing prices for exceptionally pretty pictures by minor Impressionists: a Lebasque landscape which was expected to fetch £10,000 at Sotheby's last month, sold to Japan at £63,800.

Old Masters had a comparatively quiet year with no major collections coming on the market but it was boom time for British pictures. Portraits which have been out of fashion since the 1930s staged a major



Lebasque landscape £63,800

comeback, with the eighteenth century popular but the sixteenth and seventeenth century shooting up in value.

Artists such as Cornelis Johnson moved from the £3,000 bracket the around £15,000.

**Sculpture**  
A strong revival of interest in sculpture is in progress. It has been much cheaper than pictures for decades but now the gap is narrowing. In the modern field large sculpture is in sudden demand in America, for private gardens, public buildings and museums. A 24ft Calder topped the record for American sculpture at £609,000 and was bought to stand in front of a new building in Seattle. Two big Maillol bronzes were sold for £786,000 each.

There were signs of a return of interest in Renaissance bronzes and nineteenth-century sculpture, though German Gothic carvings were still in the doldrums.

**Furniture**  
The tremendous strength of the English furniture market was the main feature of the year. At the top of the market American buying was the major influence - perhaps because Americans have priced their own, very similar, eighteenth-century furniture out of the market. What the big collectors like best is a piece by a famous name, from a famous house, preferably documented by a contemporary bill. Then the sky's the limit.

Down the scale there are knowledgeable English collectors prepared to pay a lot for what they like and home decorators who buy old furniture because it is prettier than new furniture and often cheaper.

The French furniture market is more unpredictable. The best goes through the roof, such as the Louis XIV Boulle commode at £486,000 in April. And events such as the Florence Gould sale in Monte Carlo attract bevy of rich Americans to lap up lesser pieces - but they do not sell so well at standard auctions.

**Silver**  
Jacques Koopman, the London dealer, has provided most of the sensations here, doggedly outbidding the world on the very best eighteenth-century and nineteenth-century silver. He likes silver-gilt especially and ornate design. He has among his clients Mr Muhammad Mahdi Al Tajir, the London ambassador of the United Arab Emirates and one of the richest men in the world. But there are also other big buyers.

Koopman set a new auction price record for silver when he and a partner paid £484,000 for a silver-gilt shield of 1822 designed by the sculptor John Flaxman, following the description of Achilles' shield given in Homer's *Iliad*.

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Leopard figures at £123,860



Silver-gilt wine coasters

**Oriental art**  
Chinese export porcelain soared in price. There had been little interest in this area since the Portuguese revolution put paid to a boom backed by Portuguese collectors. This time round the main buyers seem to be American and they are buying to decorate their homes, for export porcelain is *par excellence* decorative.

Most expensive are the highly coloured figures of birds and animals. The Florence Gould sale in Monaco included a splendid pair of tigers which tripled estimates to reach £124,000.

Throughout, the decorators' market is the strongest. Sixteenth-century and seventeenth-century Ming blue and white vases are selling to be made into lamp bases rather than as scholarly items.

The early ceramics, such as Han green glaze wares and Tang pottery figures, if not of top quality, are falling back a little in price. The arrival of newly excavated pieces from South-east Asia and China itself has unsettled the market; no one knows how much more may come forward.

In Japanese work netsuke, inro and nineteenth-century ivory carvings are appealing to a wide market and rising in price.



Leopard figures at £123,860

### Other fields

Textiles are emerging among the most interesting new collectibles and there is still a long way to go before these have been properly studied and priced. Meanwhile, prices are rising over a wide spectrum from samplers, to patchwork quilts, to Coptic and other Middle Eastern embroidery, Chinese embroidered silks, velvets from Constantinople and Venice, silks from Lyons and English *gros point* and *petit point* needle work.

Other areas where there has been a big jump in price include English antiquities, such as recently discovered bits and pieces of Celtic bronze, and cheaper decorative items of tribal art (stools, embroidery etc.). Dolls are still selling well but the new market is for teddy bears.

### CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 404)

- ACROSS
- 1 Disgrace mark (6)
  - 2 Prescription (6)
  - 3 Parnassus bird (3)
  - 4 Closing period (6)
  - 5 Annual pay (6)
  - 6 New Testament "father" (4)
  - 7 Phenol acid (8)
  - 8 Grow into (6)
  - 9 Louisiana French (6)
  - 10 Meeting president (8)
  - 11 Juicy perk (4)
  - 12 Rappel (6)
  - 13 Severe rebuke (5)
  - 14 Toy gun banger (3)
  - 15 Affirm to (10)
  - 16 Retarding force (6)

- DOWN
- 1 Pollex (5)
  - 2 Nazi secret police (7)
  - 3 Diplomatic specialist (7)
  - 4 Vertical stair part (5)
  - 5 Abstract idea (7)
  - 6 Violoncello (5)
  - 7 Bissed (7)
  - 8 Drinks counter (3)
  - 9 Display (7)
  - 10 Disfigure (3)
  - 11 Abstract idea (7)
  - 12 Eye-marked moth (8)
  - 13 Goddess of peace (5)
  - 14 Chest (5)
  - 15 E.African independence (5)

SOLUTION TO No 403  
ACROSS: 8 Scrap merchant 9 Egg 10 Non smoker 11 Event 12 Express 13 Tumbler 14 Omits 22 Irregular 24 DSO 25 Bridge of Sighs  
DOWN: 1 Essence 2 Brogue 3 Spinner 4 Sneeze 5 Summ 6 Tackle 7 Starts 12 VDU 14 Progress 15 Sit 16 Trilby 17 Margin 18 Lollipop 20 Indigo 21 Scouse 23 Gage



## FRIDAY PAGE

## Prior's one-woman kitchen Cabinet

The wife of the Northern Ireland

Secretary, Jane Prior, talks to

Richard Ford about her hectic lifestyle and plans for the future

For a Cabinet minister it may be the Siberia of British politics but being Secretary of State for Northern Ireland offers a distinct advantage to a politician's wife.

It is the only job in British politics, apart from being the Prime Minister's consort, which offers the wife a role. No one is forced to step into it but for a woman like Jane Prior, very much a politician's wife, it has allowed her to do what she obviously most enjoys — working as half of a husband-and-wife team.

For almost three years she has crisscrossed Ulster meeting thousands of people while her husband has administered from within a heavily guarded castle. She has put aside friends and interests on the mainland to concentrate on the role. Civil servants admit that no one has worked at it as hard or as enthusiastically.

It has also meant less time for her family of four grown-up children, constant travelling and the managing of a life that involves four separate homes. Perhaps the biggest change is the constant security screen surrounding the Priors on and off duty.

Exhilarated and excited by politics Mrs Prior, aged 53, has also found time to be in the House of Commons for important events, particularly where her husband was involved. Although she missed what may prove to be his last major speech at the dispatch box when the New Ireland Forum was debated earlier this month, she was there when he faced MPs after his celebrated interview on Radio Norfolk.

In it her husband confessed honestly that it was probably time for a fresh mind and that he had done about as much as he was going to do in Ulster. "I was not at the interview. If I had been I might have kicked him under the table. I have done that before now," she said.

Sitting in the grounds of Hillsborough Castle, once the residence of the governor of Northern Ireland, where the Priors now have a one-bedroom flat, is not where she ever dreamt of during the 30 years of her marriage. One of four children of a serving RAF officer, she grew up on a boat on the Thames, and was a wartime evacuee to

the United States before finishing her education in Suffolk. "I was quite academic at school but in those days you either went to Oxford or Cambridge or went nowhere. It seems ridiculous to say that now, but at the time that was the thing. I tried to get to Oxford but failed."

She regrets not going to university but, as a "doer rather than student", she is not likely to emulate Sir Geoffrey Howe's wife and become a mature student.

She was working as a secretary with a firm of tea importers when she met her husband. "I married somebody whose ambition in life was to be a farmer but who had no political ambitions. Never thought about it. Neither of us considered a political life. It happened because the local party wanted a local man to win a neighbouring constituency's Labour seat. Jim was invited to stand."

Soon after her husband was elected a Conservative MP in 1959 they took the decision that has been seen in her work in Ulster — you go with your husband to wherever the job takes you. "I stayed at the farm to start with but I have always felt very firmly and with experience that if you have a husband going into politics, you become a camp follower if you possibly can and you go too. I think it is far more important

*'I married someone whose ambition was to be a farmer'*

for a wife to stay with her husband and if necessary take any children along.

As a family they tried various ways of satisfying what she describes as the "constant conflict of children v husband v politics". She tried staying at their fifteenth-century moated farmhouse in Suffolk; then she went to London with her husband, leaving the children behind until they finally opted to live in London during the week, where the three boys and a girl attended day school before becoming boarders. Travelling back and forth to the constituency each weekend was, she



Far from the madding crowd... Jane Prior relaxes in the beautiful grounds of heavily guarded Hillsborough Castle

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF MRS PRIOR

Here is an example of a typical day in the life of Mrs Prior when she is in Northern Ireland:

9.30 am — factory visit, Londonderry.  
10.40 — visit new Foyal Bridge, Londonderry.  
11.00 — visit Drop In Centre.  
11.45 — tour Altavale Hospital, Londonderry.  
2.15 pm — visit adult training centre for physically handicapped Coleraine.  
3.15 — visit youth training programme.  
4.00 — visit mayor and most representatives of tourist industry in north Londonderry and county Antrim.

life has been tough on them and they occasionally complained.

Nothing she had known previously could have prepared her for Northern Ireland, where her husband's job involves decision-making over an area comparable only with that of the Prime Minister and where there was an opportunity for a "political wife" to carry out her own engagements. Neither had the Priors experienced the protective wall of security thrown up around them and which will remain long after they have returned from Ulster. Then there was the almost constant travelling between the

Suffolk farm, London flat, Northern Ireland and latterly yet another home in Hampshire where Mr Prior has a new farming venture.

Like others before them they have at times found the security oppressive, particularly in their own homes. They were advised to put net curtains at the windows to deter snipers, the presence of police had all but stopped Mrs Prior sunbathing in a bikini and even as we talked in the heavily guarded grounds of Hillsborough, uniformed RUC men patrolled nearby.

Her husband's activities on

the farm have been curtailed because of the need for tight security but she says of the constant need for vigilance "It does not worry me. I missed all the security, such as it was, because I went into hospital a week after he was appointed. I said, 'You had better get on with it', so by the time I came out of hospital the net curtains were up."

She had no time to discuss the province, which she had never visited before landing at Belfast's Aldergrove airport, and such was the speed of the changeover that Mrs Margaret Atkins, her predecessor, was waiting at the airport to fly out as the Priors arrived. She spends three days a week in the province, two in London and weekends in the constituency, and admits that she finds the travelling tiring.

The other thing is carting your stuff around. I try desperately to come without a suitcase but end up coming with two. I never seem to have the right things in the right place. I had to buy Jim a few extra pairs of pyjamas and the odd shirt. He is



Off duty... Jane and Jim Prior in Suffolk

always grumbling because a blue shirt is not where he thinks and accuses me of losing it. I don't know if I have or not so we go out and buy another one. Marks & Spencer have done well out of us. We try to keep a wardrobe in each place but it never works out.

Although they discuss politics and the province's problems, she does not discuss her role with him. "I knew there was a role for a wife if she wished to take it and as we have always done things together, if there was something for me to do, it was natural I should try to do it. I could have stayed in London but I would not have dreamt of doing that. I wanted to get here. One thing about this job is that you are fully stretched and I like living like that. It is quite a demanding schedule."

They tend to have separate engagements during the day, giving the province, as she says, "two for the price of one". She has visited hospitals, schools and training schemes but her particular interest is in factory visits. She visited St Louise's comprehensive school on the Falls Road, was particularly active in getting an industrial

have got a rather better understanding because when I came I was very ignorant. Perhaps that is the best way, as then you have an open mind."

But, after three years of intense observation she now says: "Unless and until all people in Northern Ireland, whatever they may be, are prepared to actually give up something in which they most firmly believe, give away a little bit to those people who hold very different views, there will not be peace here."

They have missed friends and family and she almost gave up golf because "in Northern Ireland you cannot be a bad golfer and when I practised at Hillsborough the police around were also stretched and I like tennis and shooting and during their three years they decided to try to live as normally as possible, visiting pubs and restaurants across the province."

However, she is clearly already planning a life away from Northern Ireland, a life in which her husband will probably not be a Cabinet minister. The days will be "her own" on their return to Britain and though there will not be any study or book to be written, she says with some relief that if her husband wrote one she would add "piquant comments".

"I hope I shall do something on my own account, perhaps in industry. It has interested me for a long time and I am concerned about future employment prospects and alternatives to employment. I have done quite a bit on my own account and I still have time for a bit of a career. I don't intend to work full-time. But as one grows up, one's sense of independence grows."

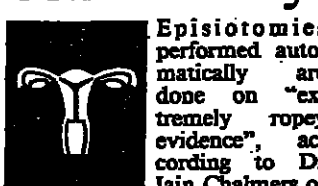
*'People of different faiths work together and then laugh about it'*

society started at one school in Belfast, helped to raise money for the Northern Ireland Association of Youth Clubs and has encouraged Extern, an organization which offers alternatives to prison.

She remains a magistrate in London but gave up posts with a children's society and the National Association of Youth Clubs because "there are only a number of things you can do and I felt that as Jim was here I wanted to put Ulster first. I have been very lucky and seen a great deal of Northern Ireland. I

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

## Cutting controversy



Episiotomies performed automatically are done on "extremely tropy evidence" according to Dr Iain Chalmers of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit at Oxford. But the rights and wrongs of the subject — possibly the most controversial of all obstetric procedures — are not clear.

Women who go into a labour ward and are assured that there is no compulsory policy are, nevertheless, bitter when their perineums are cut for what they believe are flimsy medical reasons. On the other hand, there are complaints, admittedly fewer, by women who wished they had been given an episiotomy because the stretching of the perineum was by far the most painful experience of the delivery but the hospital they attended had a restricted episiotomy policy.

The controversy has been fuelled because few well-structured trials have ever been conducted. For example, comparing women who were given an episiotomy with women given neither spinal anaesthetic nor episiotomy is not comparing like with like — the anaesthetic might have either exacerbated the pain or diminished the discomfort.

Dr Chalmers has been involved in a study of 1,000 women; the results are due to be published in the *British Medical Journal* shortly. He points out that both obstetric policies — to cut or not to cut — have the same intention: to minimize trauma to the perineum.

The women in the study were randomly divided into two groups: one where episiotomies were performed if they were likely to prevent a tear (a liberal policy) and the other where tears were allowed if they meant avoiding cutting the perineum (a restricted policy).

In the second group, 10 per cent of women were given episiotomies. This matches the expected rate of about 7 per cent of episiotomies which are performed because the baby is in distress. In the other group there was a 50 per cent episiotomy rate. The women were followed up at 10 days and then at three months. There were no big differences between the two groups in terms of pain or problems of incontinence. The

women who were left alone (the restricted policy group) tended to have resumed intercourse a little earlier.

So what do these figures mean for future obstetric practice? Hospitals with an episiotomy-for-all policy and rates of 70 to 80 per cent are probably performing many of them unnecessarily. At the other end of the scale, hospitals performing fewer than 20 per cent may be causing their patients unnecessary distress.

26 per cent of the women in the restricted group had painful tears that split forwards towards the urethra, compared with 17 per cent in the other group.

Episiotomies ought to be performed to avoid serious tears, yet only five women out of the total 1,000 had one. Whether by chance or not, four were in the restricted policy group — slim evidence for an episiotomy-for-all policy.

The only cases where episiotomies should be performed are, according to Dr Chalmers, when the baby's head becomes erratic, a forceps delivery is indicated or the midwife judges that the woman will suffer an explosive tear.

The final judgment must be left to the midwife or doctor in charge of the delivery. Interestingly, at the Reading hospital where the study was conducted the episiotomy rate has settled down to 20 per cent.

## A test for every man

*Champions*, the film about Jockey Bob Champion who won the Grand National on Aldaniti, and his fight against cancer, missed an important opportunity according to Mr Donald Newling, a film surgeon.

It failed to reveal that Bob Champion's primary tumour was testicular cancer, so it did not mention that testicular cancer is now curable and that with early diagnosis less than one in 10 victims need die of it.

Ten years ago the overall survival rate for testicular cancer was just 40 per cent. Now, with better drugs, the figure stands at 70 per cent. But if boys and men could be encouraged to look out for any unusual swelling, and seek medical help as soon as they think anything is wrong, virtually all new cases could be cured.

## A spot of bother...



in time for the start of the new school year?

Measles vaccination is most effective. The success of the campaign in the United States says it all: in the autumn of 1981, 97 per cent of children going to school for the first time had been immunized. This was matched by the number of notified cases which fell — from 57,345 in 1977 to 1,697 in 1982.

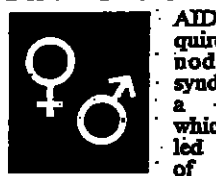
If you think that measles is a harmless viral infection and your sons and daughters will come to no harm if they contract the disease, wait again. With nearly 100,000 cases every year in England and Wales; claiming ten to twenty lives and with complications in a further 10 per cent of cases, that mild disease takes on a new image.

At the moment about 56 per cent of children are vaccinated in Britain. If the vaccination is administered at the recommended age of 15 months it provides 95 per cent protection and is pretty safe — brain damage or other central nervous system complications occur in about one in a million.

A link between the low uptake now and the controversy in the 1970s surrounding rubella is unlikely. It might have been expected that uptake rates for polio, tetanus and diphtheria vaccinations would also be significantly affected — and they were not.

Adopting the American policy of compulsory pre-school vaccination is not thought to be desirable or practicable in this country; neither is a take-up rate of 95 per cent thought to be realistic. Much better to go for rates achieved with diphtheria and tetanus (about 80 per cent) than any wasteful campaign for elimination.

## AIDS alert



AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome), is a disease which has killed thousands of people, mainly homosexuals and drug addicts. New evidence of AIDS in Africa, however, has shown that the disease is also found among heterosexuals there.

Two studies, published recently in the *Lancet*, found AIDS among men and women in Zaire and the neighbouring country of Rwanda.

In just three weeks, 38 cases were identified in Kinshasa, Zaire, and over one month, 26 were spotted in the Rwandan capital, Kigali.

According to Dr Joseph McCormick of the US Centre for Disease Control, Atlanta, which coordinates US research on AIDS, the findings raise the possibility that AIDS could become a sexually transmitted disease of the heterosexual population in western countries too.

One important risk factor is the number of sexual partners. Most of the AIDS victims in both studies had had several different partners. Eleven of 17 male victims from Rwanda admitted 200 contacts with prostitutes.

Correction  
The telephone number of Gamblers Anonymous, mentioned in this week's Wednesday Page, should have been 01-332 3060.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Carrying the motion

Liverpool's left-wing city council has just voted to suspend standing orders to remove Liberal personnel spokesman Pam Bradley from the personnel appeals committee. Her "crime" is to have leaked to the press that a city council employee convicted of stealing council bricks has been reinstated with full back pay, and to have given Liberal MP David Alton "confidential" information for his recent early day motion on the abuse of political power in Liverpool. This states that Militant supporters Lynn and Barry Caldwell, neighbours of deputy council leader Derek Hatton, have been appointed leader's aide and city public relations officer respectively - even though the latter's sole journalistic experience is writing the odd article for Militant; that another Militant neighbour, Derek Ware, previously a night club employee, has been appointed city security officer without any previous experience of the job; that Tony Beyga, a left-winger from Knowsley district council which employs Hatton, has been appointed caretaker at Liverpool Polytechnic. Mrs Bradley tells that she plans to attend Monday's meeting of the committee and will have to be carried from the room.

### Read on, and on

The Queen, I fear, will find she has made a big mistake in criticizing the National Book League for providing too little fiction in the bundle of summer reading which it presented to her last year. This year's selected list of 28, sneaked to the diary yesterday, is certain to smack her right between the eyes. The one my experts tell me she'll never conquer is *Unbearable Lightness of Being*, by the erudite Czech Milan Kundera, while she's almost certain to balk at the heavy-going *Name of the Rose*, by the Italian Umberto Eco, and *Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter*, by the Latin American Mario Vargas Llosa. The Queen, who has asked for the books to be presented to her next Wednesday just before she leaves for Balmoral, may well turn for light relief to Garwyn James' *Focus on Rugby*.

### Naming names

The Home Office is about to release 450 secret papers on Sir Oswald Mosley and the British Union of Fascists. The declassification of files that were once to be kept locked up for 100 years, will be on a grander scale even than last year's release and could prove still more revealing. Labour MP Norman Atkinson, who has wrung the confession from the Home Office, expects the papers to contain "names and pointers" to names of Mosley supporters prominent in the 1930s. "Not only the Duke of Windsor but the whole network of supporters from the Mayfair highlife circle twice removed from the Palace", he says. The Home Office says that before being handed over to the Public Records Office the documents would be scrutinized to avoid "embarrassment or unwarranted slurs on people still living". But Atkinson says he has been told privately that the Home Office intends to err towards liberality and that Home Secretary Leon Brittan is personally sympathetic towards disclosure.



Barry Fantoni  
"Just forget you're a rater, Henderson, and start thinking up some snappy slogans"

### A fine thread

The BBC, soon to negotiate the next licence fee increase with the Home Office, will presumably keep quiet about a 110-minute drama-documentary it has had made. Called *Threads*, it shows the destruction of two ordinary families when a nuclear bomb falls on Sheffield (civil defence measures prove useless), and the "reduced, barren, brutal" life endured by the survivors. It is, admits scriptwriter Barry Hines, "pretty horrible" and being more factually sound and more realistic, it knocks *The Day After* into a cocked hat. Remembering the hysterical government reaction to that Hollywood soap opera - Hines' demanding a right of reply etc. - there is speculation that *Threads* might just fail to appear on the BBC's autumn schedule to be announced next month.

### Head start

Plaid Cymru clearly knows something Westminster does not. Yesterday it named political newcomer Dr Delme Bowen, a biologist, to fight the next general election for Pontypriod. "Premature!" said Plaid Cymru. "No, no, too slow. We'd like all our candidates named by Christmas."

PHS

# Too much land locked away

by Edwina Currie

Recently I had dinner with a group of East Midlands house builders. Each voiced the same *cri de coeur*: where are they to get the land for building houses?

It is hard to tell how many new houses we need: the Department of the Environment refuses to issue any forecasts, perhaps believing that silence is preferable to getting it wrong. One thing is certain: most of the available land is in the cities, where few builders are prepared to risk their capital, and precious little in the suburbs and countryside where people want to live.

Estimates of the land available in towns vary. Greater Manchester Council's area alone has some 30 square miles of spare development land. The 1982 Survey of Derelict Land showed that nearly 113,000 acres in England were recorded as derelict; of the area, 85,000 acres were considered reclaimable - much of it in the cities.

At an overall reclamation rate of 5,000 acres a year, the current supply will last nearly until the end of the century. Or will it? Builders cleared and reused half the land so identified in 1974, in eight years flat.

Converting foul old rubbish dumps and derelict factory sites into modern homes and workplaces not only improves the appear-

ance and status of an area, but also creates rateable value and restores stable communities, particularly where there is a high percentage of owner-occupiers.

The builders feel that some councils hang on to land in the vain hope that some day they will be able to build council houses. Manchester City Councils, for example, owns 65 per cent of the derelict land in its area suitable for housing. But less than one fifth of the land on the English register is owned by councils. Bigger culprits are the nationalized industries, who hoard a quarter of it. It took them 18 months to market 1,100 acres of the 24,000 acres they owned; and only 138 acres of it has actually been brought into use.

The Government has powers to compel disposal of land but has failed to test them. It can take a decade for a developer to prise out of a recalcitrant council a suitable piece of land with planning permission, while Derelict Land Grants (less than £250,000 for the whole of Manchester) are pathetically small, even when the DoE can be persuaded to part with them.

The pressure on open Green Belt land comes from those waiting in the wings to buy, and is resisted by those already lucky enough to live there. The inner city and urban land will not last forever, while pressure to refuse development in the Green Belt increases. Where is the army of new home owners to find land on which to build? More urgently, what exactly is to happen now in an area like Oxfordshire where there is no land in the city, no development in the Green Belt and a ban on growth in villages?

The real price of houses will go on rising. Housing will remain the best hedge against inflation, and showing a better return than industry, will continue to attract the lion's share of the nation's savings.

Secondly, planning applications for high-rise property will inevitably reappear. Thirdly the nation will slowly become less well housed. Buy your house and repair the roof, keep your fences in good order. You may need to defend your territorial imperative in the century to come.

The author is Conservative MP for Derbyshire, South, and former chairman of Birmingham City Council housing committee.

## Caroline Moorehead on proposed new radio rules which could damage London's theatre boom

As Rolling Stock, C. B. Rusty and Greaseball were limbering up for the Great Race on the opening night of *Starlight Express* in March, their shuntings and rumblings and the songs that went with them abruptly went dead.

The catastrophe that struck London's most spectacular musical on roller-skates persisted for almost the entire second act, while the principal skaters whirled around on their elevated freeways in apparent silence, mouthing numbers that were to have marked the climax of the evening. Only extras could be heard, while outside the sound engineer begged and pleaded with a BBC broadcasting unit parked in a nearby side street to stop its accidental blocking of the skaters' radio microphone frequencies.

That such a disaster could occur is indicative of the poor-relation status held by sound in the London theatre today. Silence may fall permanently on the majority of the West End's most prestigious musicals and rock concerts if the Government introduces a major reorganization of the radio frequency spectrum, planned for the end of the year. And, as if this were not enough to alarm the now highly successful theatre world, a proposed BBC high-frequency transmitter is promising to cripple Royal Shakespeare Company productions at Stratford.

Cuts, which opened in May 1981, is now booking for June 1985; *Starlight Express* and *Singing in the Rain*, both showing in theatres with a seating capacity of well over 2,000, are virtually fully booked.

The formal allocation of radio frequencies for theatre users could now be frozen by law, however, which would leave just four frequencies for radio mikes, and make it more difficult for theatres to poach as widely and illicitly as they have in recent years - *Starlight Express* has 21 radio microphones, 17 of which poach frequencies from broadcasting.

This week, just before the unofficial July 31 deadline for submissions to the Government on the proposals, a group of theatre sound consultants are sending in a report. Their hope is that the Government will recognize the enormous losses in revenue and prestige which would hit the theatre should they fail to take adequate account of its current needs.

Up until the late 1940s, musicals were carefully written in such a way that the orchestra was always subservient to the voice: 15 trumpets were not called on to sound forth just when the soprano opened her mouth to sing. But in the 1950s electric instruments were produced, followed by electronic synthesizers able to conjure up any sound from a Cathedral organ to a piccolo, a burp, a new or an American train whistle.

None of these instruments is designed to be played softly, and



Andrew Bruce (left) and cast from *Starlight Express*: the age of the microphone

## Sounds like a radio drama

with each the threshold of noise in the theatre is raised, with the result that no singer today can compete unaided by microphone, particularly for eight performances a week.

At the same time, vastly improved technology has meant that the audiences who come to the West End are accustomed to the perfect tone and sound of their own hi-fi. "They expect high quality," says Andrew Bruce, whose company, Autograph Sound Recording, has 12 musicals running in London, and who is leading the appeal to the Government, "and why should they have to make adjustments and allowances?"

For several years these conflicting demands have been met in an adequate if unorthodox way by the use of radio microphones. These are attached to individual singers and used on frequencies poached from broadcasting, but with power so weak that the possibility of conflict with anything outside the theatre walls has been minimal.

Since the perfection of radio microphones players and singers have jumped, run, even roller-skated with total freedom. As the unlimited possibilities have become apparent, so composers and scriptwriters have taken to producing ever more ambitious scores and elaborately choreographed movements. "If that doesn't work," says Martin Norrish, director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, announced that if the BBC were to go ahead with its plan

is going to rewrite its entire musical simply for London?"

If the theatre industry has been able to do so expanding its use of radio mikes it has only been with the tacit agreement that the illegal user must back down where conflict occurs. In practice the technicians have usually met in advance on a friendly basis to discuss arrangements.

It is only now that the Government intends to reorganize the whole radio frequency spectrum in a less haphazard way, and it appears to be considerably more interested in users other than the theatres. The latter, neglected in these negotiations, fear that they may be bypassed altogether. Somewhat late in the day they have been invited to submit a report, in the company of film-makers and independent programme-makers for Channel 4, to justify their demand for 24 frequencies. This is the maximum anyone can envisage, given cost (£1,000 per microphone) and space (six to ten seats lost to fit in a mike).

While this campaign is just picking up momentum a second is simmering in England's other great theatrical capital, Stratford. It started in late June, in the letters pages of *The Times*. Trevor Nunn, executive and joint artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, announced that if the BBC were to go ahead with its plan

to build a giant high-frequency 1800 kW transmitter at Bearly - three miles from Shakespeare's birthplace - the RSC's electronic equipment would be so severely disrupted that the theatre would be "threatened with immediate extinction".

Over the following weeks, while other electronic companies, county councilors and local dignitaries added their opposition, the BBC made soothing noises about tests and full cooperation.

The RSC appears to have technological evidence on its side. It is an indisputable fact that a transmitter the size of Bearly will emit enormously powerful signals as it must if it is to carry the World Service to Lima and Tokyo - and that the kind of equipment now in use in the theatre (computerized mixers, lighting systems and amplifiers) are extremely sensitive to all signals in the air.

During the winter, the BBC offered to carry out tests in the neighbourhood to simulate the transmitter's potential signals. According to Simon Bowler, technical systems manager for the RSC, even when these were both 32 degrees off the correct beam and of far smaller power, the data on the lighting console was corrupted, and the memories wiped from three electronic typewriters.

For sound engineers like Andrew Bruce or Simon Bowler, a proper recognition of their needs would do more than avert a disastrous collapse across a wide spectrum of British theatre. It would also serve as a vital part of today's theatre, and that they play no small part in the theatrical boom of which England - with a 12 per cent increase in theatre bookings forecast for this year - is now the acknowledged leader.

other, in his father's house there were many mansions. Now, we hear on all hands that man is the enemy, that the planet cannot sustain more of him, that only animals are noble and pure.

I think it is worse than that; I think there is a hatred of life itself somewhere down in the cellarage, an unbearable rage at the very fact that there is a universe and that we are in it, for good or ill, along with the animals. I cannot be the only one, surely, to have noticed the satisfying relief with which nuclear disasters describe the impending holocaust and its lakes of molten eyeballs, its forecast of instant skeletons, its mountains of roasted flesh.

A far cry, you may say, from the mink which now roams the Staffordshire countryside, seeking what and whom they may devour. But there is one more loose end to be tied. I mentioned the claim of the "liberators" that they broke into the mink-farm to let the mink escape. Imagine, however, their surprise, when the mink showed no inclination to escape through the hole obligingly cut in the wall to their terrible prison. A passer-by could have feasted his eyes on wonder at the sight of the liberators chasing the mink out of the captivity they were plainly reluctant to leave, but which their rescuers had decreed that they must leave, whether they would or no.

If a mink in its natural state and habitat will, as we are told, bite savagely anyone who approaches it too closely, imagine what extra degree of crossness will be felt by a mink which has been forcibly liberated against its will. Unfortunately, we cannot even hope that poetic justice will ensure that the mink's victims will be its liberators. I am sure that long before the question arose they were all back in their comfortable London homes, grumbling that the dustman was late again this week.

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George Walden

## Why Scargill hits a foreign nerve

National disputes have international angles, and those of the miners' strike go much wider than the indirect effects on our mortgages. Coal has long been a symbol of Britain's power and prestige, and Bevin's famous plea for enough coal to fuel his foreign policy still rings true in contemporary ears. He saw that coal was not just vital for Britain's diplomacy, but for her very independence, and he had the courage to say so to the trade unions. As Foreign Secretary, and as a great trade unionist himself, he was determined "to stand up equal to anyone in the world... I want Britain to be self-reliant and to come back, and I can only do it if you come forward". It is a pity that there is no one of Bevin's stature on the left today to tell Mr Scargill what he told the TUC in 1947.

Yet the message is as central now as then. The gap between our resources and international aspirations is large and growing. It is no good insisting that we must stand up to the Nigerians, the Russians, the Americans or to anyone else if we are going to slip back into insolvency, and slide back to the IMF. Independence is not something you simply assume. It is something you earn. All this does not worry Mr Scargill, who has an alternative foreign policy ready to import from the East. It ought to worry Labour, but then the international horizons of Bevin's party have shrunk to vanishing point. As this once great movement shrivels back into internecine introspection, it seems quite ready to pull down the economic pillars of Britain around our heads, and hang the consequences. Labour should remember that Scargillism means a Britain of economic dwarfs, run by political humunculi, a Lilliput among nations.

How does it all look from abroad? In Britain, many people are stunned and some frightened by the ability of such a small man to wield such great power. The risk is they will come to respect the power, if not the man. Overseas, where we are still a byword for civilized behaviour, the rise of such ferocious mediocrity causes puzzlement as well as concern. In the French Communist party, Mr Scargill would scarcely qualify as a *militant de base*, let alone as leader of a major trade union, who in France and elsewhere tend to be hard but disciplined and prudent men. No continental Communist would dream of speaking or acting with his abysmal crudity. In the cool, factual sense of the term, Scargill is a disgrace to the British nation, and a living symbol of the degeneration of the British left.

Bevin was British all right, but the NUM president, with his stage Hitlerian act, has a double-edged sword. The terrible truth is that, despite all this, he is a domestic product, and his irrational appeal cannot be underrated. When Mr Scargill quotes the cost of the "aggressive" policing of the strike as another reason for settling it on his terms, it is disturbing to see, this Newspeak echoed by otherwise sensible men in the Labour Party, some of whom actually seem to believe it.

Philip Howard

## Bad sports, just like Nero

Here we go again, then. As the poet Pindar observed, more or less 24 centuries ago: water is best, gold is richest, sun is brightest, and the Olympic Games are the greatest. And for three centuries before Pindar, the unfortunate inhabitants of Olympia had been bracing themselves for the quadrennial locust invasion of jocks, harpies, and locker-room groupies, locking up their daughters, and hanging up Bed and Breakfast notices on the front porch.

I hold these truths to be self-evident about the Olympic Games, though they are in danger of being forgotten in the media circus. Zola Bulb should not be running for Britain. This is to cast no aspersion on the fitness or lovely nature of the bare-footed hero, or whatever it is that the *Daily Mail* is calling her this week. She runs beautifully. Though, with a bit of training, I fancy my chances against her over the old-fashioned distances of 440 and 880 yards; a race as sporting as Groucho Marx stalking a waitress.

But Bulb is not British. The same argument disqualifies Lamb from betting for England, apart from the fact that he looks so miserable about the business. Of course, England has a long and honourable tradition of adopting exiles from all over the world and making them English. But not so fast, so commercially, and so cynically.

Many of the "sports" at the Olympic Games are as sporting as pushing a sea-saw, with one's nose; which, for all I know, may be one of the events in California. Apart from these absurd new Olympic sports such as boating, FT, prodding, kicking, jogging, bathing, pony-trekking, and dressage, the height of absurdity has been reached this year with the inclusion of synchronized bathing, as practised by Esther Williams in *Million Dollar Mermaid* and other Hollywood Splashes, smiling sweetly as she did the back crawl in time with 50 other extras who had passed their swimming test to become nauts.

Nothing should be an Olympic sport that depends on value

What has this country done to deserve such a man? Surely the miners themselves deserve a better protector? His rise cannot be explained entirely in terms of the astute loyalties of communities under threat, or of the decay of the socialist body politic. It is to some extent the result of a failure of social imagination by the rest of us. There are dangers in being right, and the Government is remorselessly right on the coal dispute. The figures show it, and have never been seriously refuted. But in Yorkshire - as in Brussels - being right is somehow not enough. The fact that the Opposition is wrong is not much help either.

The trouble is that perfectly symmetrical policies tend to have sharp, anaesthetic corners, like the sort of buildings Prince Charles complains about. Unfortunately people are not symmetrical, and need coping into some sort of shape. We are dealing with men, as well as measures. Again, it helps to see ourselves from outside, and in historical perspective. Where are the speeches paying proper tribute to what coal and steel have made this country over the years, and recognizing the appalling social suffering that accompanied these massive national exertions? And why aren't such speeches made north of the "border" - and I don't mean Scotland. We are after all talking to the sort of people who fought and won alongside Colonel "F" Jones.

That is not to say that we should allow the sugar of compassion - in its more self-indulgent sense - to eat through the enamel of the policies. Nor can any serious government adopt an Alliance goody-two-shoes approach - each shoe pointing in a different direction. Rationalization of the coal industry must go ahead, in the interests of the miners as well as the country. Such speeches would not impress Mr Scargill. Yet they would not be aimed at him, but at the deeply conservative communities whose natural fears he exploits for his own political purposes. It may be too late to bring the strike to an early end, but it is not too soon to prevent the bitter myths of defeat from taking root.

Foreign models don't travel well. But in one respect, it is time for a tincture of gaullism. De Gaulle provided not only leadership, but a sense of social solidarity which was a key ingredient in his success. That sense is the only way to detach Mr Scargill from his supporters, and to pave the way for reconciliation after a settlement. We haven't got any Bevin to help us now, so the responsibility of the Government is all the greater.

Mr Scargill is a national disgrace all right, an amoral and unrepresentative leader, despite his temporary following. But the miners cannot be expected to recognize this if they themselves do not feel a real part of the nation. The aim is to divide Scargill from the miners, not the miners from the country. The way to achieve that is to stress with every inflection and every phrase in every speech not that the Conservatives are bent on beating the miners, but that Britain can and must beat Scargillism.

The author is Conservative MP for Buckingham.

## They love minks, it's people they can't stand

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Somewhat to my own surprise, and doubtless even more to the surprise of my readers, I find myself today turning to the subject of mink. Hitherto, my only knowledge of the subject has been gleaned from those ladies who, when I have offered them yet another diamond necklace at Christmas, have indicated that they would prefer a mink coat, whereas I have naturally hastened to fulfill their wishes (though of course they have rarely received the diamond necklace as well). But what I did not know until recently was that there is an animal called a mink. I suppose that if I concerned myself with the details at all I vaguely thought that the fur came from some more familiar beast such as a bear or a fox (I say, is there an animal called a sable, and is there yet another called an astrakhan?).

And beyond taking care to assure the pretty creatures draped in the result that it went well with the colour of their eyes I thought no more about the matter.

Now, however, I am obliged to. For of late there has been something of an epidemic of attacks on mink-farms by people calling themselves the Animal Liberation Front, and just recently they caused sufficient damage to the fences of a mink-breeding establishment to enable many hundreds of the animals to escape. Or so the liberators claim, though as you shall hear, that is not quite an exact description of what happened, and in the inexactitude there lies something of considerable interest.

When the raid was over, and the countryside was swarming with mink, the first thing that happened was that a police warning went out urging the populace not to "have a go". It seems that mink are very fierce beasts and will bite anyone who comes near them; even if they are approached with kindness and a knob of sugar; children are specially at risk because, seeing a nice cuddly-

looking animal, they are inclined to toddle up and stroke it, only to find themselves a moment later shot at a finger or two, or perhaps an eye or a nose.

Well, well; no doubt the mink-liberators would say it serves the little bleeders right. Much more serious, however, is that it is not just human beings that mink like for elvenses; they also eat game birds, rabbits and hares, and even children. What is more, there is evidence that they do not confine their chicken-eating to broiler fowls (which the Animal Liberation Front would certainly claim was inspired by a desire to help free their feathered friends, the casualties, among the chickens being caused by an over-hasty attempt to bite through the wire of their cages); they also took nothing of gobbling any of the hardwired, a company that handles the major rock and roll concerts, "what American company

are seeking to demonstrate is their devotion to human beings."

A more *soigné* version of this attitude is expressed by Mr John Aspinall, who repeatedly said, in so many words, that he prefers animals to mankind; and if we note the human mortality rate at his zoo we shall probably find it easy to believe him. Mr Aspinall puts his case in what it would not be too absurd to call philosophical terms: violent or illegal behaviour, and flaming at the mouth, are not for him. But the actions and words of the Animal Liberation Front as they break down a mink-farmer's fence or smash up a medical scientist's laboratory or spit upon a guest arriving at a luncheon for some organization that has incurred their displeasure, show clearly that the "liberators" are so consumed with hatred of people that they have no room at all left for love of animals.

That, as a matter of fact, is what I would have expected; if you do not love your own kind how can you love a stranger? Moreover, it is clear from the fanatic violence and extremist language used by the "liberators" that they are very far indeed from being at peace with themselves, let alone their neighbours: some of them, to judge by their statements, must be seriously disturbed individuals, in greater need of liberation from their hallucinations than any mink from its cage. But even the fully sane ones plainly take more delight in wishing all the plagues of Egypt on the two-legged creatures than freedom on the four.

This is, I think, a phenomenon very much of our time. St Francis loved the beasts and preached to the birds; indeed, he spoke kindly of the flea. But his love of animals stemmed from his love of mankind, and it would never have occurred to him that the one precluded the

other, in his father's house there were many mansions. Now, we hear on all hands that man is the enemy, that the planet cannot sustain more of him, that only animals are noble and pure.

I think it is worse than that; I think there is a hatred of life itself somewhere down in the cellarage, an unbearable rage at the very fact that there is a universe and that we are in it, for good or ill, along with the animals. I cannot be the only one, surely, to have noticed the satisfying relief with which nuclear disasters describe the impending holocaust and its lakes of molten eyeballs, its forecast of instant skeletons, its mountains of roasted flesh.

A far cry, you may say, from the mink which now roams the Staffordshire countryside, seeking what and whom they may devour. But there is one more loose end to be tied. I mentioned the claim of the "liberators" that they broke into the mink-farm to let the mink escape. Imagine, however, their surprise, when the mink showed no inclination to escape through the hole obligingly cut in the wall to their terrible prison. A passer-by could have feasted his eyes on wonder at the sight of the liberators chasing the mink out of the captivity they were plainly reluctant to leave, but which their rescuers had decreed that they must leave, whether they would or no.

If a mink in its natural state and habitat will, as we are told, bite savagely anyone who approaches it too closely, imagine what extra degree of crossness will be felt by a mink which has been forcibly liberated against its will. Unfortunately, we cannot even hope that poetic justice will ensure that the mink's victims will be its liberators. I am sure that long before the question arose they were all back in their comfortable London homes, grumbling that the dustman was late again this week.

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## CRIMINAL PICKETING

Mr Philip Inverarity looked out from his East Lothian home yesterday onto a crowd of at least forty picketing miners, most of whom came from County Durham. Some of them pretended to be waiting for a bus. All of them were guilty of criminal behaviour. Their purpose was to intimidate Mr Inverarity and his family so that he stopped going to work at Bilton Glen Colliery. This was not an isolated incident. Indeed it is the pattern of behaviour of Mr Scargill's shock troops and it is being accentuated now that more and more evidence accrues to suggest that thousands of miners, not to mention their families, are longing to return to work if they could overcome the barriers of intimidation which beset them.

At Creswell in Derbyshire yesterday 2,500 pickets roamed the village near Babbington Colliery. Elsewhere miners' pickets in cars obstructed traffic along the M1. It was an everyday story of the power determination and brutality of the National Union of Mineworkers under Mr Scargill's control. It is paying out between £80,000 and £90,000 a week to deploy its pickets in this way.

How much longer does the nation have to wait for chief constables and the Director of Public Prosecutions to act to prevent what is, in effect, a criminal conspiracy working to intimidate citizens in their homes, in their villages and on the road? Picketing of any kind is a form of intimidation, even when it is confined to the work place, even when it is limited to the legal maximum of six pickets. That limit is mocked with impunity each day by Mr Scargill's private army. We know that chief constables and the DPP have some element of

discretion about prosecutions. It may be that chief constables prefer to see their streets cleared and their areas reasonably free of trouble than to go through the endless administrative hoops required to prepare a prosecution which could identify these bully boys and bring their operations to an end.

That is not a good enough excuse. If the forces of law and order continue to allow mob rule to operate day after day after day, with impunity, it will be the Government which will suffer eventually from the erosion of public confidence which such evidence will gradually encourage.

At yesterday's meeting the Miners' Executive duly rejected the offer made by Mr MacGregor and the Coal Board. It is a lucky escape. The offer itself was not a good one. The agreement to relieve the five pits - perhaps only temporarily, but that would have been in the small print - and to revise the planned run-down of capacity looked like a concession which hardly merited the struggle of the last twenty weeks. It was only not a concession if the application of the "beneficial" viability criterion to each pit resulted in the almost immediate closure of the five pits in question. In the nature of things the reprieve and the revised production targets would have received most prominence after a settlement. The subsequent application of cool economic analysis by the Coal Board would have been greeted by Mr Scargill and his lieutenants as a betrayal of the settlement.

It is now up to Mr MacGregor and the Coal Board to change the bowling. The offer must be withdrawn. In its place the Coal Board should prepare a programme of pit closures,

without waiting for a settlement. It should consider pre-emptive redundancy for those miners who were prepared to take it. Perhaps working miners should receive the original pay rise offered last year, or some variant of it. All these initiatives should be taken by the management acting on its own prerogatives now that the NUM has unilaterally opted out of the discussion.

With the workforce there is increasing evidence of a profound desire to return to the pits in defiance of the unbalanced instruction to stay out on strike. Obviously these men fear Mr Scargill's power through the union machine. Every union official, with his union salary, his union car, his union mortgage and his union pension, is a party man in that sense, and not likely to assist in such defiance.

Somewhat these tensions beginning must be encouraged by the Coal Board, by ministers and by society at large, all willing an end to this undeclared civil war which has defaced Britain this summer. But it is not enough to will the end without it being obvious to the British public that a settlement, when it comes, makes two things clear. The first should be that the nature of a settlement has not made any concession to an attempt to bully and intimidate the Coal Board and beyond it the taxpayer public, into subsidising operations far beyond their worth. The second must be some evident reassurance, either in the composition of the settlement or in its perceived consequences, that the brutalities of Scargillism both in its control of the miners and in its attempt to make a wider war on British society through the trade union movement as a whole cannot and will not be repeated.

## ROLLING BACK STATE-RUN SHIPBUILDING

It is tempting to think of the planned sale of British Shipbuilders' shipyard as a move to privatize one profitable part of a state industry to help finance the remainder, along the lines of Jaguar and BL. But the change is much more drastic than that. Taken with other sales and closures by British Shipbuilders, it amounts to the dismemberment of the state corporation and a reversal of the process of nationalization.

The inclusion of Swan Hunter, which has had a substantial merchant shipping business, and Cammell Laird on the list of companies to be sold, in addition to the Corporation's planned sales of ship repair and engineering businesses, means that the remaining merchant shipping division would have accounted for less than a quarter of last year's turnover and less than a third of the existing workforce.

Moreover, it is intended to introduce more competition by selling the shipyard yards singly or in small groups, recreating the pre-nationalization structure - unfortunately completed at the top by a loss-making sector heavily aided from public funds.

A few of the yards might even be bought back by their previous owners, who still dispute the justice of nationalization prices.

Nationalization proved particularly disastrous for Britain's shipbuilding industry, largely because it came at a moment when a series of rapid adjustments were needed at individual yards to the collapse of business worldwide. The process of state takeover first froze commercial developments and then engendered an atmosphere of false security. The industry has since learnt a measure of realism and has already undergone a savage contraction.

The problems faced by both management and workers can be suggested by the halving of tonnage completed throughout the world between 1973 and 1983 and a three-quarters drop in order books over the decade. Against this background, only South Korea has made any real progress. The industries of Japan and the continental countries have felt the same squeeze as British Shipbuilders. They, too, have responded, so that the British industry, having started behind in productivity, has been running hard to remain near the back of the field.

Mr Graham Day, the plain-spoken Canadian soon to complete his first year as chairman of British Shipbuilders, has made little secret of his feeling that the problems of the corporation are so multifarious as to stretch any single management beyond its best. The sale of Scott Lithgow, which had a cash cost of £133m last year and the ending of the expensive rig-building experiment were symptoms. So, in a more modest way, was the closure of the small Cleland yard, now planned to reopen on a small scale through private enterprise.

The remaining merchant yards may not look viable today. But there is every sign that they will be given a chance to achieve a new life as builders of smaller more specialized vessels. Behind the tough facade, Mr Tebbitt is asking Brussels to permit the British taxpayer to give a higher rate of subsidy against Far East competition. Given that Government earnest, that it wants to retain a British merchant shipbuilding capability, the concentration of management will give the remainder of British Shipbuilders a better chance.

## HARD CASH FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The latest West German credit for East Germany once again confirms the extraordinary resilience of the inter-German relationship, at a time when East-West relations are otherwise icy. It follows a major deal for Volkswagen cars to be produced in the GDR, and paves the way for Herr Honecker's long planned visit to the Federal Republic. At the West German government has made plain, the DM950 million credit is in effect a down payment against East German promises to make travel between the two Germanies less difficult. It is, to speak bluntly, an exchange of hard currency for human rights.

This is a precious achievement for many Germans: the pensioners who will be able to visit their families more often, the East Germans who may now have their first ever holiday in the West, and those who are at last being allowed their basic human right to move from one part of Germany to the other. In the first half of this year more than 27,000 people were permitted to resettle in the Federal Republic; for the whole of last year the figure was less than 8,000. That achievement should not be underestimated.

West German leaders further claim that the special German-German relationship is a contribution to "European peace policy". While stressing that both German states remain totally committed to their respective alliances, they suggest that this is a model of the way in which eastern and western European states can keep talking to

each other, when the superpowers are not. The image of Germany as an "island of détente" is popular on both sides of the Berlin Wall.

This larger claim has met with some scepticism in other Western capitals. For arguably an inter-German relationship which develops along the lines of the deal announced this week, is as much - if not more - in Moscow's interest as it is in the West's. West German subsidies contribute directly to the prosperity and stability of the German Democratic Republic. Even if the Soviet Union does not benefit directly by high technology transfers, via Germany, this is very much in its interest - especially with Poland in crisis. The concessions which Honecker has made are marginal. Of course increased contacts with the West are potentially destabilizing, but the Honecker régime has learned over the last decade that it can cope with those threats.

The apparently liberal gesture of letting people out is, in fact, also a contribution to the security of the regime. The people you let out are the people who are most likely to cause trouble. General Jaruzelski would be delighted if he could export his dissidents as Herr Honecker does. In any case, a formidable German police state plus the presence of 400,000 Soviet troops is enough to reassure Moscow that East Germany will not begin to go the way of Poland.

Meanwhile, the conservative government in Bonn continues,

with only slight amendment, the *Deutschlandpolitik* of its social-liberal predecessor. This policy requires a good working relationship with East Berlin, and that must depend on Bonn's relations with Moscow. The Bonn government therefore has a special national interest in good relations with Moscow.

In the long term, this could have disturbing implications for the Western alliance. Whatever Honecker's executive independence from Moscow (a limited room for manoeuvre which he may be exploiting to the full), it is certainly far less than a Federal government's independence from Washington. However important the GDR is to the Warsaw Pact (more than ever, given Poland's splendid unreliability), it cannot be more important than the Federal Republic is to Nato.

Against these doubts, we must recall the Bonn government's constant reiteration of total loyalty to the Western alliance; the remarkably trouble-free deployment of Cruise and Pershing missiles in that country; and Chancellor Kohl's express desire for further West European integration. Indeed, far from earning praise in Moscow, he has prompted another round of propagandistic denunciation - although the weary old bogey of West German "revanchism" is being raised mainly for Soviet domestic reasons. Undoubtedly, the Germans in east and west are brought closer together by inter-governmental deals like the one announced this week. What larger interests they serve is still an open question.

## Ancient right of trial by jury

From his Honour Judge Tibber

Sir, Your report (July 25) of the speech of the Lord Chief Justice at the Judges' Dinner suggests that his view is that we cannot afford, in terms of time and money, the right to trial by jury for trivial crimes, including theft.

The trivial theft is punishable by imprisonment, especially if it is not the first. The first trial theft is a bad stain on the character.

Are we to measure, in terms of time and money, the cost of trial by jury, where so much is at stake, against the saving to be effected by removing this ancient safeguard of our liberties?

Many offences punishable by imprisonment are not triable by jury. I regret this. Let us not add to their number and suffer further erosion of our right to be tried by a jury of our peers.

The Lord Chief Justice is rightly concerned about delays. The approach should not be to provide more courts and more judges, not to tamper with valued rights.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY TIBBER  
As from: 48 Bancroft Avenue, NZ, July 25.

From Mr Stephen W. Allen

Sir, If Lord Lane's comments on jury trials being "very good for the legal profession" were qualified elsewhere in his address to the Judges' Dinner, then we should be given the benefit of that further comment. If they were not, they cannot pass unremarked.

To imply, as it seems to me, that jury trial may be seen as an attractive proposition from a costs point of view to a practitioner, and that this might influence a decision to elect trial must be challenged. The question of costs is, of course, important from the client's point of view but in the vast majority of practices the question: "How much will I get out of it?" will not be a consideration.

Which, in any case, is the "trivial" offence - a theft of thousands from a body with millions, or a theft of one pound from a man with ten?

Yours faithfully,  
S. W. ALLEN  
David Goulding & Co, Solicitors,  
75 Halesowen Road,  
Netherton,  
Dudley,  
West Midlands.  
July 25.

## Buying stamps

From Mrs Frances Partridge

Sir, I have just returned from Spain, in which fortunate country stamps can be bought within a few minutes, either in a post office or at any tobacconist, to find that my local post office, a large and busy one at Knightsbridge and one of the most frequented in central London, has been spirited away. We are instructed to go to another, involving a two mile walk, where an immense queue, doubly imprisoned behind long railings, kept me waiting 35 minutes to buy my stamps. I read that 50 other London offices are under threat.

What on earth is the purpose of this wanton destruction of services equally vital to private persons and businesses, especially as we read that the PO has made a thumping profit? And could we not follow the admirable custom current in Spain, and I believe in other European countries, of licensing tobacconists to sell stamps?

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCES PARTRIDGE  
16 West Halkin Street, SW1.  
July 17.

## Lèse majesté

From Mr W. H. Rayner

Sir, Auditions were held recently at the Theatre Royal in Norwich for the part of Jim Hawkins in the theatre's forthcoming production of *Treasure Island*. I was the pianist for these auditions.

Over 20 boys aged between 11 and 13 turned up and, as is usual on these occasions, were asked to sing a presumably well known song to get their voices into working order - on this occasion the National Anthem.

All knew the first line. (They were told it). All got the second line wrong. (They repeated the first line). All got the third line right. ("God save the Queen"). From then on, nothing.

I believe that in all schools in every other country of the world, of whatever political persuasion, one of the first things taught is their national anthem. Why, apparently, is it not taught here?

Yours etc.,  
W. H. RAYNER  
1 Crown Point Drive,  
Trowse,  
Norwich,  
Norfolk.  
July 19.

## Satanic mills

From the Secretary of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England)

Sir, Your report (July 10) on a document, *Mills in the 80s*, which apparently recommends the rapid wholesale demolition of industrial buildings that, as it happens, I have just been visiting professionally. One of the consequences of the implementation of such a proposal would be to negate the scholarly recording of what are now the monuments of a significant part of this country's social and architectural history. Eighteenth and nineteenth-century textile mills may constitute a deterioration in the eyes of the inert or frustrated businessman,

## Labour's attitude to Central America

From the Chairman of the Labour Party

Sir, George Walden's article on President Reagan's policy in Central America (July 20) contains a number of snide references to the British Labour Party and to the European Left in general. It also recommends that we in Britain should adopt a policy of spineless deference towards US policy in the region. Walden's article must be challenged on both counts.

Firstly, he demands that the Labour Party should have the "grace" to welcome the victory of Napoleon Duarce in the recent election in El Salvador. We will do so only if this election cannot be described as a legitimate exercise in democracy.

The country, for one thing, is in a state of civil war; some 4,000 people, according to the UN Commission for Human Rights, were slaughtered there in 1983; socialist leaders could not possibly campaign openly without the prospect of being murdered.

Prior to the campaign, the opposition movement, the FDR-FMLN, put forward a series of proposals designed to end the war and lay the basis for national reconstruction and reconciliation. These proposals, which would have preserved pluralism and removed the apparatus of state repression, were irresponsibly rejected by the Magana regime and its US puppet-masters.

Walden's article omitted to mention that the "softly-softly" US approach which he so applauds very nearly delivered the presidency to Roberto d'Aubuisson, a man apparently deeply implicated in death squad activity.

Secondly, Walden implies that if

we do not back the Americans to the hilt in their own "backyard", they will take their revenge by damaging Nato. Has it really come to this for Tory politicians?

Are we now to sacrifice on the altar of Nato our obligation to support what is right and oppose what is wrong? And will they not concede that public confidence in the Alliance has already been injured precisely because of US adventurism in the region and that the damage can be undone only if Washington's allies speak out against the tragic absurdity of President Reagan's policies?

It is profoundly offensive for Walden to equate support for the Sandinistas in Nicaragua with the desire to destroy Nato.

The Sandinistas have deserved encouragement in their commitment to democracy, soon to be fulfilled in genuine national elections. From Washington, under Reagan, they have received nothing but almost pathological hostility.

George Walden says we should give the Reagan administration "a fair hearing" in Central America. I think the people who deserve a fair hearing are the thousands of ordinary Central Americans who have suffered decades of repression, exploitation and neglect, who have lived under corrupt governments, invariably shielded and funded by the United States, who are standing up now to demand change.

For Tory politicians this would be a far more informative pursuit than the swallowing and eventual regurgitation of Embassy handouts and State Department briefs.

Yours sincerely,  
ERICS HEFFER,  
House of Commons.  
July 24.

## Regional initiative

From Professor Gerald Manners

Sir, Professor Chisholm and Dr Martin (July 23) rightly challenge the Government's view that regional policies should be seen solely as a response to social need rather than an opportunity to further national economic growth.

There is no way in which this country will be able to achieve an acceptable and sustained rate of growth until the labour and other resources of the less prosperous regions and the threatened metropolitan economies are once again making a proper contribution to national wealth, rather than absorbing in part the product of other regions' achievements.

As the Regional Studies Association has recently argued, however, following its independent *Inquiry into Regional Problems in the United Kingdom*, it is just as important to define realistically those "regions" that have the development potential to benefit from national assistance as it is to specify those that have a "need" for jobs in particular. The country's geography cannot remain unchanged.

The real disappointment of the exercise that has culminated in the White Paper on *Regional Industrial Development* is that whilst it began quite properly as a major inter-

departmental review, it has reached conclusions that ignore the complexities of successfully providing local and regional development assistance and the necessity for cooperative endeavours by several arms of government.

Between the lines, it reads as the contribution of one department of state to the reduction of public expenditure. For the rest of this Parliament, therefore, it would appear that the Government is now committed to perpetuating present arrangements whereby responses to regional problems, inner-city dilemmas and manpower training needs are made through separate departmental initiatives.

Moreover, it appears that one of the more successful tools deployed in recent years to assist with the restructuring of the Scottish and Welsh economies, the innovative and coordinating role of their development agencies, will continue to be denied to the English regions.

Either the development agencies have been a success in Scotland and Wales and therefore deserve replication in English regions with comparable problems and opportunities, or they have not - in which case the remedy for a cost-cutting Government is clear.

Yours faithfully,  
GERALD MANNERS, Chairman,  
Regional Studies Association,  
29 Great James Street, WC1.

## Warnock report

From Mr J. Alan Smith

Sir, In today's editorial, "Ultimate values" (July 21), you encapsulate the moral confusion that has led inexorably to the Warnock report. Your references to "current ethical perceptions" and "as public opinion stands at present" suggest that you subscribe to the view that the ultimate arbiters on matters of faith and morals are Dr Gallup and Mr Ore.

You support the proposal to legislate experiments on embryos up to an agreed age limit "the limit should certainly come before appearance of a rudimentary nervous system". The apparent humanitarianism of this limit hides the fact of the moral retreat from "Thou shalt not kill" to "Thou shalt not cause pain".

You find organized surrogate motherhood undesirable "because the hiring of sexual services of any kind is repugnant". Do you really find surrogate motherhood more repugnant than killing a human embryo after experimentation? Is prostitution, though repugnant, more repugnant than murder?

But, if public opinion reigns supreme in the sphere of morals, does it matter very much what you or I think? Moral questions will be settled at any particular time by polls and elections. Moreover, the results of these tests of public opinion are likely in favour of the relevant financial interests. If public opinion is the supreme judge and there is money to be made out of surrogate motherhood, then it is very probable that surrogate motherhood agencies will be legalized.

Yours faithfully,  
J. ALAN SMITH,  
40 Albany Court,  
Epping,  
Essex.  
July 21.

## Paying for pension

From Mr Martin Paterson

Sir, In your leader, "Salaries, savings, pensions" (July 18), you welcome the proposals in Mr Fowler's consultative document to give employees the right to opt out of company schemes and choose a personal pension instead.

You go on to say, apropos whether employers should contribute to these, that the fundamental point is that employers' pension contributions are in reality part of the employee's salary and should be brought out into the open and recognised as such.

This view of pension contributions is widely held, but I think it is wrong and it leads to the wrong conclusions. The purpose of a final salary plan (the normal company scheme) is to replace income at retirement, not to set part of it aside whilst it is being earned.

Contributions to a personal pension, which is based on the savings principle, can properly be regarded as part of the employee's salary. But I think it shows a mistaken view of the purpose of a final salary plan and a lack of understanding of the insurance principles on which it relies, to regard contributions to it in that light. In total they are part of labour costs but they cannot be regarded as part of the pay of any individual.

It is not clear from Mr Fowler's proposals whether an employer who believes that his own scheme is the only sure way of providing adequate replacement income for his employees (and their dependants) will continue to be able to claim tax relief on the cost of such provision, even though they opt out of membership. It would be interesting to have clarification of this point.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN PATERSON, Chairman,  
Martin Paterson Associates Limited,  
10 Buckingham Place, SW1.  
July 18.

## Dual designation of UK airlines

From Sir Henry Marking

Sir, The Civil Aviation Authority's report on airline competition (report July 19) has a fatal and, one would have thought, self-evident flaw. If the wish of the CAA and of Government is to see more competition between not be achieved by transferring sole British operating rights over a route from one British carrier to another.

There can only be true competition between British airlines if they compete with each other in the same markets, i.e. over the same routes, not by operating in quite separate markets over different routes.

Whether more competition between British airlines would prove in the long term to be in the British interest is arguable, but it will in any event not be brought about through transfer of British monopoly rights as the CAA recommend.

The agreement of foreign governments to dual designation of British carriers may be difficult to get, but it is a battle HMG should be prepared to fight.

Yours faithfully,  
HENRY MARKING,  
64 Montagu Mews North, W1,  
July 23.

## Decade of unease

From Mr C. J. L. Elwell

Sir, Mr Arthur Martin, commenting (July 19) on allegations made by his former colleague, Mr Peter Wright on television, suggests that there was almost certainly "continued penetration" of the security service "until at least the early sixties" and that the disbandment of the investigating team led to a "decade of unease which still festers today".

Unease may well fester in the minds of those who are obsessed with suspicions that can never be proved but it is unlikely to fester in the minds of members of a service which can boast of repeated triumphs against Communist intelligence services during the last 30 years, not the least of which was the investigation of Lonsdale, Kroger, etc when Sir R. Hollis was Director General.

If the service was indeed penetrated the penetration was singularly ineffective. Mr Martin says that Mr Peter Wright was "deeply concerned by the threats to his country". If that was so, it is surprising that he should make allegations that can only provoke unease and to the benefit of those ready to profit from it.

Yours faithfully,  
C. J. L. ELWELL,  
Bottrells Close,  
Chalfont St Giles,  
Buckinghamshire.  
July 19.

## Dental visa

From Mr Christopher Batchelor

Sir, Some weeks ago a friend of mine, the Polish actor Tadeusz Lomnicki, wished to acquire a visa to visit the United Kingdom. He applied to the British Embassy in Warsaw and among the many questions asked was: "How many false teeth do you possess?"

Is this question relevant to the recent NHS cutbacks, or is it merely offensive and belittling? Perhaps the civil servant who devised the questionnaire could enlighten both your readers and me.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER BATCHELOR,  
Middal House,  
12A Finsbury Square, EC2.  
July 16.

## Conflict of creeds

From Mr A. P. Stephenson

Sir, According to Gibbon, in 318 Arius's immediate followers were two Egyptian bishops, seven presbyters, 12 deacons and 700 virgins: weak support for one deeply rooted in tradition (letter, July 17).

Gibbon defines Arianism as belief that the Son, by whom all things were made, had been begotten before all worlds through the Logos. He was not infinite. He was a visible image of invisible perfection.

He saw at an immeasurable distance beneath his feet the thrones of the brightest archangels. He shone only with reflected light and governed the universe in obedience to his Father's will. The Father's will had created the Logos: a dependent and spontaneous production. Is this the clear, scriptural Christianity of last-day Arians?

Under the heading, "Cruelty of the Arians", it appears that tender virgins were subjected to psychopathic treatment and a wooden engine was used to hold open the mouths of unwilling communicants while the consecrated bread was forced down their throats. Could this also be why the Arian bishops lost their seats?

Yours faithfully,  
A. P. STEPHENSON,  
11 St Leonard's Road,  
Eastbourne,  
Sussex.  
July 17.

## Easy money

From the Reverend Brian H. King

Sir, I am used to "gentlemen of the road" calling at this vicarage. In these lean times their number has increased. However, today when I told the caller that I had no money to give him, he amazed me by replying, "That's all right, guv, I'll take a cheque". He meant it.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN H. KING,  
St Elizabeth's Vicarage,  
265 Victoria Drive,  
Eastbourne,  
East Sussex.  
July 17.











From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.  
If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

No.	Company	1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low		
	<b>INDUSTRIALS S-Z</b>										
1	TNT	12.50	12.00	10	Turner & Newall	1.20	1.10	19	House of Fraser	1.20	1.10
2	St. Helens	1.20	1.10	11	Waring & Gillow	1.20	1.10	20	House of Fraser	1.20	1.10
3	Western Board Mills	1.20	1.10	12	Freemantle	1.20	1.10	21	Bracknell	1.20	1.10
4	Sparrow (GW)	1.20	1.10	13	Starbuck	1.20	1.10	22	New Wits	1.20	1.10
5	Skendley	1.20	1.10	14	Marka & Spencer	1.20	1.10	23	Nib Kalgini	1.20	1.10
6	Tridigar House	1.20	1.10	15	Combinat English	1.20	1.10	24	Milner	1.20	1.10
7	Stobichon Law	1.20	1.10	16	Harris Queensway	1.20	1.10	25	Nib Broken Hill	1.20	1.10
8	Victors	1.20	1.10	17	Br Home Stores	1.20	1.10	26	Malaysian Mining	1.20	1.10
9	Thermal Synd	1.20	1.10	18	Vastone Vitell	1.20	1.10	27	Copeng	1.20	1.10
10	Turner & Newall	1.20	1.10	19	Dewhurst (LI)	1.20	1.10	28	Charter Cons	1.20	1.10
	<b>DRAPERY &amp; STORES</b>			20	House of Fraser	1.20	1.10	29	De Beers	1.20	1.10
11	Waring & Gillow	1.20	1.10		<b>MINING</b>				<b>BUILDINGS &amp; ROADS</b>		
12	Freemantle	1.20	1.10	21	Bracknell	1.20	1.10	31	BPA Industries	1.20	1.10
13	Starbuck	1.20	1.10	22	New Wits	1.20	1.10	32	Martalls (Haitian)	1.20	1.10
14	Marka & Spencer	1.20	1.10	23	Nib Kalgini	1.20	1.10	33	Higgs & Hill	1.20	1.10
15	Combinat English	1.20	1.10	24	Milner	1.20	1.10	34	Trava & Arnold	1.20	1.10
16	Harris Queensway	1.20	1.10	25	Nib Broken Hill	1.20	1.10	35	RMC	1.20	1.10
17	Br Home Stores	1.20	1.10	26	Malaysian Mining	1.20	1.10	36	Finlan (John)	1.20	1.10
18	Vastone Vitell	1.20	1.10	27	Copeng	1.20	1.10	37	May & Hassell	1.20	1.10
19	Dewhurst (LI)	1.20	1.10	28	Charter Cons	1.20	1.10	38	Blue Circle	1.20	1.10
20	House of Fraser	1.20	1.10	29	De Beers	1.20	1.10	39	Rutberford	1.20	1.10
	<b>BUILDINGS &amp; ROADS</b>				<b>BUILDINGS &amp; ROADS</b>			40	Countryside	1.20	1.10
31	BPA Industries	1.20	1.10								
32	Martalls (Haitian)	1.20	1.10								
33	Higgs & Hill	1.20	1.10								
34	Trava & Arnold	1.20	1.10								
35	RMC	1.20	1.10								
36	Finlan (John)	1.20	1.10								
37	May & Hassell	1.20	1.10								
38	Blue Circle	1.20	1.10								
39	Rutberford	1.20	1.10								
40	Countryside	1.20	1.10								
							</				

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's Newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEK TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

SHORTS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

MEDIUMS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

LONGS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

BREWERIES

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

1984 High Low Company Price Chg % P/E

1	12.50	12.00	TNT	12.50	12.00	1.20	1.10
2	1.20	1.10	St. Helens	1.20	1.10	1.20	1.10
3	1.20	1.10	Western Board Mills	1.20	1.10	1.20	1.10
4	1.20	1.10	Sparrow (GW)	1.20	1.10	1.20	1.10
5	1.20	1.10	Skendley	1.20	1.10	1.20	1.10
6	1.20	1.10	Tridigar House	1.20	1.10	1.20	1.10
7	1.20	1.10	Stobichon Law	1.20	1.10	1.20	1.10
8	1.20	1.10	Victors	1.20	1.10	1.20	1.10
9	1.20	1.10	Thermal Synd	1.20	1.10	1.20	1.10

BUILDING AND ROADS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

FINANCE AND LAND

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

FOODS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

CINEMAS AND TV

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

DRAPERY AND STORES

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

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8	1.20	1.10	Victors	1.20	1.10	1.20	1.10
9	1.20	1.10	Thermal Synd	1.20	1.10	1.20	1.10

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FINANCE AND LAND

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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

FOODS

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8	1.20	1.10	Victors	1.20	1.10	1.20	1.10
9	1.20	1.10	Thermal Synd	1.20	1.10	1.20	1.10

BUILDING AND ROADS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

FINANCE AND LAND

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

FOODS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

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8	1.20	1.10	Victors	1.20	1.10	1.20	1.10
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BUILDING AND ROADS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

FINANCE AND LAND

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

FOODS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

CINEMAS AND TV

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

DRAPERY AND STORES

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low

# Equities move forward again

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, July 16. Dealings End, Today. Contango Day, July 30. Settlement Day, Aug 6.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Volcker means sunny days are here again

If only Mr Paul Volcker, the oracular chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, had made his half-yearly report to Congress a month earlier, interest rates in Britain might well be as much as 2 points lower than they are today.

His message was certainly not as stark as one television news programme's report that US interest rates would not rise this year. But he did make it plain that there would be no pressure in that direction from the US authorities.

That is reassuring in the short-term. But money market men checking their seaweed will have noticed equally clear warnings of heavy cumulo-nimbus formations speeding across the gulf stream in the long-term weather forecast. In Washington, Mr Volcker warned that the Fed would trim monetary targets in the new year in response to the inflationary threats of continuing budget deficits while, at a television press conference, President Reagan insisted that he would not be raising taxes.

But next year is almost eternity in the markets. The dollar was immediately marked down sharply, noticeably more against the Deutschmark than the pound. And in New York late yesterday, even these sterling gains were looking a little shaky.

The sad message is that the run on sterling stirred up a nest of agitation about British money and inflation trends and this new sourer view of sterling has become part of the foreign exchange market's movement furniture.

At least Mr Volcker has removed the immediate danger of a renewal of the brief sterling crisis. The debate about British domestic policy continues. The wide and narrow money figures present quite different pictures of the pressure of credit. And the more the authorities seek to focus attention on the healthy narrow measures, the more discerning analysts will pay attention to the broader credit indicators, which are out of line with British growth, and also out of line with other important countries pursuing similar general management policies.

Given that there could be good news for Government borrowing in the autumn, there may well be an interest rate window then. Could base rates fall again during the Tory Party conference?

## Corfield takes on an uphill task

Sir Kenneth Corfield, chairman of Standard Telephones and Cables, may have an uphill task in convincing a City made highly suspicious of mergers among electronic companies by the recent erratic behaviour of Thorn EMI, of the logic in his £337.6m cash or shares bid for ICL.

It certainly wanted more by way of explanation than the bare press release to which most analysts were treated yesterday. The collapse in the STC share price was a pointer to that.

The price fell 26p to 278p. At this level, the two-for-seven share exchange terms place a value on each ICL share of only 79.4p, which must leave Morgan Grenfell feeling decidedly itchy about the 77p at which it underwrote the offer.

But whatever the difficulty in seeing immediate product synergy between the two companies, Sir Kenneth is surely right about the basic aims of the bid. The borders between telecommunications and computer technology are becoming increasingly blurred and to compete in

international markets these days, a company must have weight and size.

Combining the two companies will create a powerful British grouping. Less than a third of STC's workforce is employed in selling. At ICL it is two thirds and many of these salesmen are based overseas.

The bid is plainly too low at its present level to excite ICL shareholders. Those who sold out at 77p yesterday during the dawn raid only did so because the identity of the buyer was not known. It was then reasonable to assume that the mystery buyer was a foreign company such as Fujitsu, the Japanese mainframe computer manufacturer, with which ICL has some collaborative agreements.

Now others may be tempted to join battle. Whatever happens, Sir Michael Edwards, ICL's new executive chairman, may be expected to put up a spirited defence. Sir Kenneth's comments about the importance of size in the international market raise some important questions about whether ICL can continue to survive as an independent company dwarfed by the mighty shadow of IBM.

The group's 39-year-old chief executive, Mr Robb Wilmott, has done a sterling job in restoring the group to financial health over the past three and a half years and he has been well rewarded for it with some valuable outstanding share options. The question is whether the collaborative agreements established with other companies (in effect, the strategy has been to buy in technology) provides a way forward for the company as an independent entity.

## Happiness is being a shareholder

It is refreshing to hear Lord King on a subject other than the structure of the airline industry these days. Constrained by the conventions of a maiden speech in the House of Lords, he expounded the virtues of wider share ownership.

"The day that there are as many share owners in this country as there are now owners," he told his fellow peers, "Britain will be a happier, more harmonious place to live and work."

As he points out, there are two dimensions to the drive for more people to have a direct ownership stake in industry: owning a stake in the business where you work, and the spread of stakes in industry in general.

Some progress has been made on the former, through tax reform. In particular, there has been a substantial spread of general share-based bonus schemes and general employee option plans.

Lord King is doing his bit at British Airways, encouraging employees to plan ahead to buy shares on flotation. However, he has probably done far more for wider share ownership by buying many of his employees' out of index-linked pensions with lump sums that they can invest for themselves.

The lack of substantial free capital is the main deterrent to general share ownership. Lord King rightly points out that owning shares is far more of a mystery to most than policymakers like to think. He looks forward to the day when company shares will be sold at building society offices and share ownership has been made as simple as foreign travel. But it is still far from clear whether the reforms of the structure of the stock market will enable or actually prevent this from happening at an economic price through the proper use of bank computers.

# Midland Bank profits halved to £70m by Crocker loss

By Peter Wilson-Smith  
Banking Correspondent

Midland Bank opened the reporting season for the cleaners yesterday with the announcement of almost halved interim profits and an unchanged dividend of 11p.

The City had been expecting a sharp fall in profits because of the trauma at Midland's 57 per cent owned Californian subsidiary Crocker National Corporation, which recently reported heavy losses for the first half of 1984.

Midland group's pretax profits fell from £136m in the first half of last year to £70m in the latest six months. This was slightly better than some had expected and Midland's shares rose 5p to 332p.

Midland is the first of the big four cleaners to report, but National Westminster has already indicated that its profits will be up from £236m to £285m and both Barclays and Lloyds are expected to show an improvement when they announce results next week.



Sir Donald Barron: benefits from cost-cutting.

The decline at Midland was entirely due to Crocker which has had to set aside huge provisions for doubtful loans and contributed a loss of £80m at the pretax level compared with a £29m profit in the same period a year ago.

Sir Donald Barron, chairman of Midland, said that Crocker profits were up from £107m to

£150m and that measures taken in the last couple of years to reduce costs and improve earnings were beginning to show.

He was confident that the situation at Crocker had been stabilized and Midland's plan to buy out minority American shareholders would speed up the rehabilitation.

Crocker's first-half losses were concentrated in the initial three months of the year and in the second quarter it returned to a small profit. Midland executives expect the improvement to continue, but Sir Donald said it was difficult to predict when Crocker would achieve a respectable return.

Buying out the Crocker minority will allow Midland to integrate Crocker more closely within the group, and the Californian bank's independent directors are expected to make a recommendation on the proposal in the second half of next month.

Group bad debt provisions depressed profits by £191m

compared with £119m in the first half of 1983. Again Crocker was largely to blame and provisions in the rest of the group were lower — a trend which is expected to continue — helped by lower charges in the International Trade Services group.

The group's domestic operations, which range from the domestic clearing bank to the Thomas Cook travel subsidiary, pushed up profits before tax and interest on loan stock from £124m to £144m. About half of this improvement was due to lower provisions while the domestic side has also benefited by strong growth in commission income and a wider spread between the cost of funds and interest earned on loans.

The budget changes to taxation which have affected the banks' leasing businesses have forced Midland to set aside an extra £230m from reserves. The sale of properties owned by Crocker in California are expected to help improve the free capital ratio

## State oil take 'higher by £1.5bn'

By Sarah Hogg  
Economics Editor

The Treasury's earnings from North Sea oil may be £1.5 billion higher than forecast, according to an analysis to be published early next week by the Institute of the Stockbrokers Laurie, Millbank.

This "statistical caution", Mr Ellis argues, may reflect the Treasury's use of its oil revenue forecasts as a kind of second, concealed "contingency reserve" against the risk of overshooting its £7.5 billion forecast for the public sector borrowing requirement.

The Treasury's revenue from the North Sea was £2 billion higher than it forecast last year. This year, it has been increased by the rise in the dollar, which has increased the sterling value of North Sea earnings. But Mr Ellis argues that the Treasury is also underestimating the level of North Sea production.

Although the details of its calculations are not revealed at Budget time, Mr Ellis believes the Treasury forecast of £10 billion tax revenue from North Sea oil and gas is consistent with the following assumptions: ● Production at the mid-point of the Energy Department's estimate, that is, 120 million tonnes.

● A dollar price of oil of \$30 per barrel.

● A "tax take" equal to 53 per cent of the total value of North Sea production.

However, Mr Ellis argues that production levels so far achieved suggest total production of at least 125 million tonnes.

Assuming the exchange rate averages \$1.35 for the year, Mr Ellis calculates total revenue will be at least £12.2 billion. And if the "tax take" were to rise again this year, as seems likely, the figure could be over £13.5 billion.

Mr Ellis's calculations would be only modestly affected by a fall in the dollar price of oil. Every one cent lower, he estimates, would reduce Treasury revenue by £400m over a full year, but by proportionately much less the later it occurred during the financial year.

Although he stresses his calculations are subject to wide margins of error, they do suggest the Treasury has some leeway on its public sector borrowing requirement even if public expenditure threatens to overshoot.

● Downward pressure on North Sea oil prices is continuing and Rotterdam spot market rates are down \$3 below the \$30-a-barrel official price set by the British National Oil Corporation for Brent crude, writes David Young, Our Energy Correspondent.

Other North Sea crudes are being offered at even lower rates. The price fall is blamed on a continued falling demand for refined products in the European market.

## Amex buys first 5% in Messel takeover

By Philip Robinson

Partners of L. Messel and Co, the London Stockbroker, have sold 5 per cent of their firm to the investment arm of the US conglomerate, American Express. It plans to sell the rest when Stock Exchange rules permit.

The stake is being held by Shearson Lehman American Express (SLAE). Both sides refused to disclose the price yesterday. Mr Edwin Gill, chairman and managing director of SLAE declined to comment on speculation that it paid £1m for the stake. Mr David Lloyd, senior partner of Messel, said it would "not be dignified to disclose the amount".

Providing the Stock Exchange gives permission, SLAE becomes a limited corporate partner on October 15, and owner in April 1986.

This is the first time an American share dealing and financial services house has taken a direct stake in a London stockbroker's firm. SLAE talked to 10 to 15 other firms before deciding Messel's research and corporate client list represented the most attractive purchase. Mr Lloyd said that all but one of the 44 partners would stay

with the firm once it became wholly owned by SLAE. The 270 staff were being told of the deal yesterday afternoon.

Messel had decided to accept SLAE's offer because, "if you've got to live with a herd of elephants you might as well be riding a big one", Mr Lloyd said.

Mr Gill said the US had a large appetite for good research on foreign companies, which is one of Messel's strengths. It claims to rank among the first 12 gilt-edged brokers and the first eight firms involved in British equities. It has a broad spread of blue chip corporate finance business of around 90 companies, including STC, Glaxo, Reed International and Trafalgar House.

Meanwhile Grindlays Bank, due to become a subsidiary of the Australian and New Zealand Banking Corporation in September, announced it has now signed agreements to take a 29.9 per cent stake in the stockbroking firm, Capel-Cure Meyers, and to buy the rest when allowed. No price was disclosed but the deal is thought to value the broking firm, with £900m under management, at about £20m.

## £2bn trade surplus forecast

By Our Economics Editor

Britain's current account balance of payments swung back into surplus in June, after two months in the red. The surplus on current account was £103m, reflecting a smaller deficit of only £148m on visible trade, and an estimated surplus of £250m on "invisibles". This brings the total surplus for the current account during the first half of 1984 to £284m, while the accumulated deficit on visible trade is running at £1,363m.

The Treasury is forecasting a current account surplus of £2 billion for 1984 as a whole. Total exports rose 4½ per cent between May and June, while imports rose only 1½ per cent, reflecting a decline in imports of oil and "erratic" items.

However, there was an overall increase of 41 per cent in oil imports between the first and second quarters of 1984, and a 7½ per cent fall in oil exports.

● Britain recorded the world's second-highest surplus on "invisible" trade in 1982, according to a new league table published yesterday. But in terms of gross receipts, Britain was in third place, after the United States and France.

## ICI profits disappoint

ICI has reported pretax profits of £532m for the six months to June 30 but most City brokers feel it is not enough to allow the company to break the elusive billion pound mark in the full year.

It is, however, a big improvement on the £298m profit before tax reported this time last year. Turnover also increased from £4,099m to £4,805. As expected the interim dividend has been increased from 10p to 12p.

Tempus, page 16

## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 999.1 up 2.9 (high 1007.0; low: 999.1)  
FT Index: 777.5 up 7.3  
FT 100 Share: N/A  
Bargains: 17,411  
Datastream USM Leaders Index: \$3.54 up 0.01  
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1100.48 up 3.54  
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,932.88 up 132.07  
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index: 763.07 up 4.59

## CURRENCIES

### LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.3315 down 15pts  
Index 73.0 down 0.2  
DM 3.7825 down 0.0125  
FFr 11.8175 down 0.05  
Yen 324.25 down 2.75  
Dollar Index 136.3 down 0.3  
DM 2.8490 up 0.0080

### NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.3315  
Dollar DM 2.8465

### INTERNATIONAL

ECU £0.590088  
SDR £0.76828

## INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:  
Bank base rates 12  
Finance houses base rate 9½  
Discount market loans week fixed 12½-12  
3 month interbank 11¼-11½  
Euro-currency rates:  
3 month dollar 11¼-11½  
3 month DM 5¼-5½  
3 month Fr 12¼-12½  
US rates:  
Bank prime rate 13.00  
Fed funds 11½  
Treasury long bond 103½-103½  
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period June 6 to July 3 1984, inclusive: 9.488 per cent.

## GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):  
am \$345 pm \$344.20  
close \$343-343.75 (\$257.75-258.25)  
New York (latest): \$339.50  
Kruggerand (per coin): \$333.50-335 (\$265.50-266.50)  
Sovereigns (new): \$80.50-81.50 (\$60.50-61.75)  
Excludes VAT

# £38.17m Minet and Alexander & Alexander Services offer accepted by 92 per cent.

Minet Holdings PLC and A&A Services Inc announce the result of the £38.17 million offer which they made on 21st June to members of Lloyd's syndicates managed by Richard Beckett Underwriting Agencies Ltd and WMD Underwriting Agencies Ltd.

The offer was made to 1,524 Lloyd's Names. By the time it closed at 17.00 on 24th July 1,361 (89 per cent) had formally accepted it. Minet and A&A Services have indications that 40 more Names wish to accept, which will bring this total to 92 per cent. Analysis and evaluation of the overall situation have indicated a probable final acceptance level of not less than 95 per cent.

Accordingly, the offer was declared unconditional on 25th July. Immediately, those who had accepted the offer received the benefit of their share of the £38.17 million offered. The offer will remain open for further acceptances until 17.00 on 24th August.

In making this announcement, Minet and A&A Services wish to express their appreciation to the members of Lloyd's syndicates managed by Richard Beckett and WMD for their support. This support for the offer has helped to resolve a uniquely difficult problem.

Minet Holdings PLC  
**Minet**  
Alexander & Alexander

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Brokers set for link

Montagu, Loeb, Stanley, the stockbroker, is preparing to link with another financial institution by introducing a new corporate structure for the firm.

Montagu is already in talks with potential partners and the new structure will make it much easier for the firm to shift from partnership to incorporation. As part of the reorganization Mr Robert Eroy, head of the corporate finance and private client departments, becomes chief executive and will also control Montagu's financial services company.

● METAL BOX shareholders, at the annual meeting, objected to large increases in the amount paid to its directors. Several shareholders objected particularly to the salary of the chairman, Mr Denis Allport, which jumped 40 per cent since last year to £131,000.

● NORTON OPAX increased taxable profits to £1.3m in the year ending March 1984, against £1m previously. It announced a one-for-three issue to raise £3.1m and is paying out a total dividend increase by 38 per cent. Tempus, page 16

● SECURITY PACIFIC Corporation has signed a letter of intent to sell its 55-floor headquarters in Los Angeles, California, to an institutional investor for about \$300m (£227m).

● FIRES cost an estimated £61.7m in Britain last month. One fire, at a computer warehouse in London, estimated at £32.5m, accounted for more than half of this total.

● WESTERN commercial banks have agreed to reschedule Cuba's debt, totalling about \$100m (£75.6m) for this year in easier terms than in 1983.

## Bank of Scotland may sell Midepsa stake

By Jonathan Clark

The Bank of Scotland may be preparing to pull the rug from under Henlys, the motor distributors, by selling its vital 29.6 per cent stake to Midepsa, which has made an opposed bid for the company.

The Henlys board is believed to be anxious to receive clarification from the bank about what it intends to do, but it has heard nothing since the bid was made.

The bank said last month

when Midepsa made a direct approach to pull the rug from under Henlys, the motor distributors, by selling its vital 29.6 per cent stake to Midepsa, which has made an opposed bid for the company.

Neither the bank or Midepsa will say whether they have talked since Monday's bid.

Mr Tony Edwards of Midepsa said yesterday that its bid had been criticized by a fund manager of London Life who claimed Henlys was worth 165p a share.

## Washington unveils rescue plan

# Continental loses \$1.1bn

By Michael Prest

On the day that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) formally unveiled its rescue plan for the stricken Continental Illinois and committed itself to continuing support for the Chicago bank, Continental announced a loss of \$1.1 billion (\$825m) for the second quarter.

Mr David Taylor, chairman of Continental Illinois Corporation, the bank's holding company, said that the loss was largely caused by writing down the value of credits being transferred to the FDIC as part of the rescue.

But federal regulators said that if the rescue is completed the bank will emerge as one of the strongest in the United States.

The FDIC confirmed that the essentials of America's biggest bank bailout include accepting from the bank \$4.5 billion of problem loans, injecting \$1 billion of fresh capital, employing a new management team, and guaranteeing continuing support for Continental Illinois from the Federal Reserve Board and commercial banks as well as the FDIC.

As part of the management changes, the FDIC said yesterday that the new chairman of Continental Illinois Corporation will be Mr John Swearingen, aged 65, who has retired as chief executive of Standard Oil of Indiana.

Another change at the top is the appointment as chairman and chief executive of Continental Illinois Bank of Mr William Opler, aged 56, a former vice-chairman and chief financial officer of Chase Manhattan.

Both executives will be paid \$600,000 a year and will have options to buy up to 400,000 shares over three years for \$4.50 each. The other directors

have been asked to submit undated letters of resignation.

Detailing the rescue plan Mr William Isaac, chairman of the FDIC, said that should the proposals be accepted by Continental's shareholders, the FDIC will control 80 per cent of the equity through its options on Continental Illinois.

Yesterday's statement was issued jointly by the FDIC, the Federal Reserve and the Comptroller of the Currency, emphasizing the extent to which America's biggest bail out is a government affair.

Under the proposals, the FDIC will buy from the bank loans with a face value of \$3 billion for \$2 billion. The bank will then sell another \$1.5 billion of loans to the FDIC over the next three years. The FDIC will finance these purchases by repaying to the Federal Reserve loans it made to the bank.



BY ORDER OF THE BOARD  
M. J. LYNCH  
Secretary

**Winchester Bowring:** Mr R. G. Rutty and Mr J. E. Sparkes have become directors. Mr M. W. Gallafant, Mr R. A. Lay, and Mr M. B. Swayne are now departmental directors and Mr S. Doyle and Mr J. S. White are assistant directors.

**Kleinwort Benson:** Mr Robert Cooper has joined the board.

## Profits of £532m fail to liven up ICI shares

Today gives the authorities a chance to test market nerves by issuing a full-blooded tap, the bull market funding instrument, after the recent tran-

The rights issue affords an opportunity to dilute the 49 per cent family shareholding and an opportunity to pick up some shares in a rapidly growing company.

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks continued their advance in active dealings yesterday morning.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 3.32 points at 1100.27.

Advancing issues were about seven-to-four over declines.

General Electric at 49½ was up ¼; General Motors at 65½ was up ¼; International Business Machines at 107½ was up ¼.

[illegible]

## Continued profit improvement

**The Board of Directors of Imperial Chemical Industries PLC announce the following unaudited trading results of the Group for the first half of 1984, with comparative figures for 1983.**

**Imperial  
Chemical  
Industries  
PLC**

Trading results for the first nine months of 1984 will be announced on Thursday 5th October 1984.

**Peterborough Building Society**  
Manor House, 57 Lincoln Road, Peterborough PE1 2SB  
Telephone (0733) 51491

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## STOCK MARKET REPORT

## Shares gain in strength as money rate pressure eases

By Derek Pain and Michael Clark

Fears of yet higher interest rates, continued to retreat yesterday and the stock market, although not bubbling with activity, was much more confident.

Shares drew strength from the money market where, prodded by the Bank of England, rates eased.

The FT-30 share index finished at 777.5 points, not its best level of the day but still up 7.3 points. The index has now more than wiped out the 20.9 points slump which occurred on Monday when fears that interest levels would be forced up devastated the market.

Although at the lower end of expectations ICI's interim figures left the shares 2p higher at 542p. But the half-time results appear to indicate that the £1 billion profit level will not be achieved this year.

The builder, C. H. Beazer, nursing 16.9 per cent of William Leach after its unsuccessful bid, should make profits of £10.5m for the year ended June and £13m in the present year, believe de Zoete & Bevan, the broker. They suggest the shares, up 3p to 306p yesterday, are on the high side. "But given Beazer's acquisitive stance the shares could drift back to more affordable levels."

British Aerospace gained 10p to 338p on hopes that General Electric is about to produce its long-awaited bid; English Portland rose 5 1/2p to 111p on bid hopes and ICI shot ahead 24p to 542p on the dawn raid and then bid from Standard Telephones and Cables. TI Group, with figures due next month, gained 8p to 224p, but Simon Engineering was friendless at 373p, down 10p.

Government stocks were at one time a full point higher. They closed up 2 1/2p. The Government Broker sold out another "laplet". The trade figures were in line with expectations and made little impression.

Although the bullion price was little changed, gold shares closed with gains of up to 52p.

Brokers Rowe and Pitman helped enliven the insurance pitch when, on behalf of Sun Alliance, it stood in the market bidding 627p a share for 5 per cent of Phoenix Assurance.

Sun already owns 24.3 per cent of Phoenix and has made a full-scale takeover bid for the rest, pricing Phoenix at about £400m.

But rumours persist that Phoenix, which has agreed the Sun offer, will attract another bid.

However, yesterday's raid was unsuccessful. The Phoenix price remained obstinately above the brokers' 627p level. Mr William Niven, Sun's finance director, said: "So far as I know we didn't deal because the price was too high."

Phoenix shares closed 5p higher at 630p with Sun up 2p at 318p.

Banks drew a little early comfort from the Midland Bank figures but failed to hold most of their gains. Midland closed 5p higher at 332p after hitting 344p.

Among properties, Espley Trust, the vehicle of Mr Ron Smuck which has been under acute pressure this year, rallied 7p to 40p, a two day gain of 11p. The shares have come down from 97p this year.

El. Young, the Guildford garage group, was suspended at 83p. The company called a halt to dealings as it negotiated "a substantial acquisition. Details should be released within a few weeks."

BP's North American subsidiary Sohio has announced plans to buy some of its own shares in the market. The group, which owns large chunks of the Alaskan oil fields and has an interest in the Prudhoe Bay project, is offering to buy 11 million shares at 47 1/2p each, worth £393m. This will effectively increase BP's holding in the company above the 51 per cent it now owns. BP reacted nervously to the announcement, falling 7p to 429p.

The rest of the oil sector had a drab appearance. Shell lost 5p to 558p, Ultramar 7p to 221p, Biffell 3p to 210p, Burmah 1p to 164p and Enterprise Oil 2p to 94p. London & Scottish Marine Oil slipped 5p to 558p after announcing the acquisition of Tenneco Oil & Minerals of Australia for an undisclosed sum. Tenneco Australia has oil exploration interests totalling 6 1/2 million acres onshore around Queensland. Lasso already has exploration interests in Australia.

Brooks Band, the PG food group, edged 1p higher to a high of 111p still, awaiting the appearance of a rival bidder to Tate & Lyle's 98p a share offer. Commanders range from Bass, down 5p to 330p, through to Grand Metropolitan, unchanged at 294p, and Rowntree Macintosh, 4p dearer at 29p.

Yesterday's newcomer to the USM Comstock Holdings, the computer software group run by husband and wife team Nick Horgan and Heather Kearsley, made a confident start to first-time dealings. The 1.89 million shares were one-and-a-half times oversubscribed and struck at the minimum price of 120p.

After opening at 128p the shares encountered profit-taking, but still managed to close at 124p—a premium of 4p.

The banks for Midsummer June is over. Bidders Switland Leisure has increased its offer to 240p a share, winning over East Anglian brewery Greene King and Sons which has a 9.5 per cent shareholding. Switland now has just over 50 per cent of Midsummer.

Also on the USM, shares of Mumford & White, the electronic burglar alarms manufacturer, were boosted 50p to 120p after the approach to the companies both keen to make a bid. The board emphasized that talks were at an early stage, but decided to make the announcement because of activity in the share price.

On Tuesday, Mumford & White revealed figures for the year to March 31, showing pretax profits falling by over

half to £201,000. The group blamed the shortfall on a heavy investment programme and squeezed margins in the domestic market. The shares joined the USM in 1982 after a placing by broker Grieseson Grant at 155p.

The shares hit a low of 67p in February after a company gave a warning about the setback in profits.

Another positive move was Berkeley Exploration, up 3p at 138p, after 140p, as Charterhouse Petroleum announced it had bought 1.53 million shares, or just under 15 per cent of the equity. A few weeks ago the Irish minerals group Silvermines also bought 15 per cent of the shares. Charterhouse Petroleum ended the day 2p shy at 134p.

Mr Ail Nadir has paid almost £5m for two cold stores.

Expect disappointing interim profits next month from the Micro Focus computer group. About £1m seems likely against £747,000 last time, which is well below the growth level such a highly rated company should achieve. However, Micro Focus's first-half trading has had to carry heavy marketing and research costs, which will benefit profits in the second six months. For the full year the group should achieve some £5m (£2.35m). The shares were unchanged at 650p yesterday, compared with a 950p year's high.

In Southern Turkey. To pay for the deal he will be issuing 2.9 million shares to Poly Pack, the pharmaceuticals to electronics and food stuffs group, which have been placed with institutions. Mr Nadir, says the acquisition will help strengthen the group fruit and vegetable business. The shares, a weak market of late, greeted the news with a fall of 5p to 177p.

In stores, J. Hargreaves was a firm market, climbing 6p to 241p.

Habitat Methecare rose 8p to 274p.

## Lloyd's puts aside £9m over audit certificates

By Allison Eadie

The failure of 120 Lloyd's underwriting members to file audit certificates by last Saturday's solvency deadline has caused Lloyd's to earmark £9.5m out of its central protection fund — the largest amount in the corporation's history. Mr Ian Hay Davison, Lloyd's chief executive, said the central fund was much more than adequate to meet the problems.

Lloyd's also has to decide by August 20 whether to suspend from underwriting the 120 names who failed to file.

The £9.5m represents 7 per cent of Lloyd's net fund of £134m, but it is extremely unlikely that this full amount will have to be paid out. Late filing of solvency certificates is expected following Tuesday's implementation of Minet and Alexander & Alexander Services' £38.17m compensation offer to Lloyd's names on PCW syndicates.

A total of 100 of the 120 names, who have not filed, are PCW syndicate members, but only 40 of them rejected the compensation offer. The other 60 will therefore now have the benefit of the offer money. The 40 who rejected have deficiencies at Lloyd's of 12.5m, but a few are still expected to meet their solvency requirements, Mr Davison said.

The £9.5m earmarked will be reduced as names file their audit certificates. Lloyd's will only have to pay up if names refuse to file certificates and refuse to meet their liabilities when asked. Lloyd's will take legal action against names who do not meet their liabilities.

If a large number of PCW names are suspended after August 20, it could jeopardize syndicates run by Richard Beckett Underwriting Agencies (formerly PCW). Any decision on the suspension of Beckett syndicates will wait until after August 20, Mr Davison said.

## Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	12%
Adams & Company	12%
Barclays	12%
BCCI	12%
Citibank Savings	12%
Consolidated Crds	12%
Continental Trust	12%
C. Hoare & Co	12%
Lloyds Bank	12%
Midland Bank	12%
Westminster	12%
TSB	12%
Williams & Glyn's	12%
Citibank NA	12%

\* Mortgage Base Rate.  
\* 7 day deposits on sums of under £100,000, 82% £100,000 to £250,000, 84% £250,000 and over, 10%.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

## STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

	July 26	July 27
New York (day average)	1.7700	1.7700
London	1.7700	1.7700
Frankfurt	1.7700	1.7700
Paris	1.7700	1.7700
Geneva	1.7700	1.7700
Basel	1.7700	1.7700
Brussels	1.7700	1.7700
Amsterdam	1.7700	1.7700
Stockholm	1.7700	1.7700
Copenhagen	1.7700	1.7700
Helsinki	1.7700	1.7700
Tokyo	1.7700	1.7700
Osaka	1.7700	1.7700
Manila	1.7700	1.7700
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Xi'an	1.7700	1.7700
Lanzhou	1.7700	1.7700
Urumqi	1.7700	1.7



## YOUR OWN BUSINESS

## New award for best sales performance

Some public house licensees, like the owners of free houses, are among those shortly to benefit from a £1.25m share-out of cash from a new moribund trade compensation fund. Eligibility depends on applicants proving payments between 1973 and 1986 to some 150 Licensing Compensation Authorities around the country which were set up to hold cash to help licensees that lost licences. The authorities were wound up in 1981.

Applicants are now going

British buyers may inhibited by the buying art. Many of them, until seeing her chatty sales talk, in the advertisements, had never ventured into more traditional galleries.

Another of her innovations was to make a short video tape, aimed at promoting her artists to the corporate buyer, still in the minority in England, unlike the USA, where liberal tax laws allow corporate art purchases to be offset as a capital allowance, and where the (and any other gallery owners) would like to see adopted here.

She is showing a selection of Picasso ceramics at the moment and subjects to stage similar events at regular intervals.

Professional advisers worry about how investments in companies made through the Business Expansion scheme can be realised after the five years qualifying period is up.

This was the main concern expressed by professional advisers asked by Buckmaster & Moore, a firm of stockbrokers to comment on the BES. Two other worries put forward strongly were the quality of the investments and the "front-end" charges levied by BES funds.

More than three-quarters of 71 professional advisers responding to a survey conducted by Buckmaster said they would advise clients paying tax at 30 per cent or more to use the scheme. About 85 per cent said they had used the BES for a private client. Buckmaster says it found almost universal approval for the concept of the BES. The main responses to the survey were:

Question	Response
Does the BES provide a useful means of tax sheltering?	97% Yes 3% No
Is a fund the best way of using BES relief?	63% Yes 24% No 13% Don't Know
Are potential returns reasonable?	73% Yes 73% No
Should BES funds only invest in asset backed situations?	25% Yes 73% No
Should BES funds invest in start-ups?	79% Yes 18% No
Are clients interested in local businesses?	28% Yes 65% No
Are clients interested in a specific industry?	20% Yes 77% No
Are BES funds a major source of venture	70% Yes 21% No

■ The tax benefits of the Business Expansion scheme will be a major factor in the buying shares in an Inland Revenue approved small firms investment company. Roger Freeman, MP, had asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he had received any representations for such an extension. John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, replied in Parliament: "We had representations on this from time to time. We have considered these carefully but we remain unpersuaded of the case for extending the Business Expansion scheme in this way."

■ The Board of Trade is considering improvements suggested for the joint venture scheme under which the BOTB helps groups of exporters take part in overseas trade fairs. A survey on the subject by the Board, carried by Research Associates of Stone, Staffs, threw up a number of suggested improvements.

■ More information was called for, especially for newcomers and inexperienced exporters. Start sizes and spacing could be more flexible, it was suggested.

■ Documentation and customs issues should be dealt with earlier with more detailed information, it was urged. Ways of cutting travel and accommodation costs were also suggested.

■ But the joint venture scheme was highly rated by its users. Small and medium-sized companies often saw the scheme as the most important factor in their exporting success they might have had.

● **Contact:** BOTB Fairs and Promotions Branch, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseley Road,

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David Young looks beyond the mines' record losses

# Stockpile of trouble that could bury the Plan for Coal

Within its drab brown covers - in a normal year there would be glossy pictures of miners crouched beside massive coal-sharing machines - this year's annual report from the National Coal Board contains an analysis of the past, but more importantly a glimpse of what the board sees as the industry's future.

Whether that future will ever materialize now that the miners' strike heads into its sixth month, remains to be seen. The past year, however, was not all that bad.

Even with 19 weeks of the miners' overtime ban in the period under review and two full weeks of strike action included, the report shows that in 1983-84 the industry achieved a 5 per cent productivity improvement.

That scale of advance is something to which the industry is not used. Gains are normally measured in decimals of a percentage point as geological conditions and petty industrial disruptions claw back what has been achieved by hard work by the men at the coalface and the management which work alongside.

The breakthrough came on week 32 of the NCB's accounting year, a week before the overtime ban started. By following the management policy laid down by Mr Ian MacGregor's predecessor Sir Norman Siddall - he takes pains to claim no credit for the industry's improved performance at that stage of hitting the target for the year laid down in the Plan for Coal.

That a Plan for Coal target was at last so close to being achieved is many heads from. Much of the discussion at the recent negotiations has centred on the Plan and how it can be met - with or without closures.

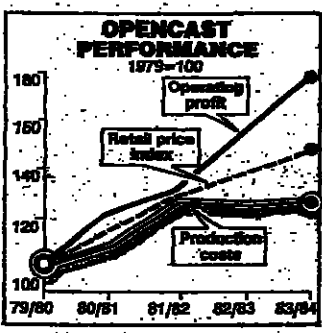
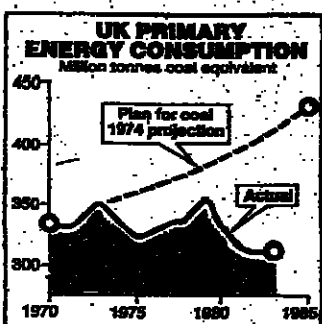
The figures show that in 1983-84 the NCB produced 105.3 million tonnes and by drawing from pithead stocks sold 108.5 million tonnes, 7.5 million tonnes to the power stations and 6.8 million tonnes to export. The other main markets were the steel plants.

Marginally down on the previous year, the figures show that running losses by the NCB, with the bill being picked up in full by the Government deficit grant, totalled £87.5m.

Although productivity in the first half of the year was reaching record levels, the miners' overtime ban and strike affected results in the last six months of the year.

Overall output per man shift was only marginally above the previous year's figure, while performance at the coalface at 10.32 tonnes per shift was still above the previous year's figure. The effects of the industrial action are however, reflected in the figures for the year as a whole which show that output per shift dropped by 7 per cent while costs went up by 12.9 per cent.

The NCB has also been operating in the past year while primary energy sources have, in general, been in over-supply. Ever since 1979, primary energy demand has fallen at such a rate as to make the predictions in



the original Plan for Coal meaningless.

Coal's share of the market has, in percentage terms, remained stable, but it is now clear that real demand, by next year, will be about 100 million tonnes less than was envisaged when the Plan for Coal was prepared in 1974.

The NCB points out: "The contraction of coal demand over recent years has underlined the need for the board to make more progress in the changeover from older high-cost capacity to new low-cost capacity envisaged."

"Over the past two years a large surplus of high-cost steam coal has been built up, with record held by consumers and at the pitheads."

Where, therefore, can the NCB draw comfort from? Its export potential, its success as an open-cast operator, or the changing age profile of its workforce which shows that a new generation of miner is likely to emerge with, it may have a less attitude to the industry and its future?

The last point already seems to have been lost in the coalfields. It has been clearly visible to the public and disappointing to the local colliery management that younger miners have played a bigger role in the present dispute. They have been active in putting forward their point of view in debate, active in picketing, apparently in the thick of the picket-line violence, and among the most vociferous of Mr Scargill's supporters at public meetings.

The open-cast executive of the NCB has been successful that it has earned itself a candidature for privatization.

It is still producing coal at the moment and the NCB accounts show that in 1983-84 it produced 13.8 million tonnes and by drawing from stocks sold 14 million tonnes. While both output and sales were marginally down on the previous year, actual operating profit at £211m was £19m up on the previous year.

The open-cast executive is subcontracting mining which is

carried out by members of the Transport and General Workers Union and not the National Union of Mineworkers. It has been a victim like most other capital intensive industries of planning disputes. It now has to meet the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Acts and has withdrawn several long-term proposals.

Nevertheless, while eight open-cast workings ceased in the year under review another eight were opened. The executive now has rights over 42,900 hectares of land. About 8,300 hectares are being returned on agricultural use after coal has been mined, 12,500 are being operated and another 22,000 hectares are awaiting development or rehabilitation.

Politically, the privatization of any NCB assets would be difficult at present. The NUM would regard it at least in the same light as threatened closures.

However, in the longer term, privatization if the open-cast executive must be considered as a concept if not a reality. The present figures certainly show it to be an attractive area of operation and with the possibility of privately operated power stations using coal and feeding into the national grid being developed before the end of the decade a definite market for privately produced coal will exist.

On the issue of winning export contracts, the NCB certainly has the will within its own management, and even after a six-month stoppage, the goodwill of its customers.

As Mr Malcolm Edwards, the director responsible for marketing, has pointed out, the NCB has never declared "force majeure" on a contract even when it has been strike-bound and had its coal stocks picketed.

Currently Inland Steel of Chicago is receiving coal from the NCB. The coal is being drawn from stocks at Rotterdam, some of it Australian coal bought by the Central Electricity Generating Board but prevented from being shipped to Britain.

The NCB will inevitably lose money on the deal, but it will have shown a potentially valuable customer that it delivers. It also makes sure that its deliveries are of the quality specified. Some customers have turned to cheap Polish coal and cheap Greek coal from the United States have returned to the NCB when they found the quality not up to specification.

Mr Ian MacGregor in his annual report encapsulates the situation. The industrial market, he said, offers the best growth potential for coal sales. "Nevertheless, it has to be said that persuading industrialists to spend substantial capital sums on new coal-fired plants rests largely on their confidence in our ability to be a reliable, regular supplier of high quality fuel, and the industrial disputes in the industry during the year had an adverse effect on the confidence of some of our potential customers."

"We are determined to overcome these difficulties and redouble our efforts in this market."

## Swimming and yachting previews

# Scott believes the world has measure of Coe and Ovett

From Pat Butcher

Suggest to an American that Allan Wells has got more chance of beating Lewis than Steve Scott has of beating Steve Ovett, Steve Cram or Sebastian Coe, and you risk, at best, an incredulous stare. Suggesting the same thing to Steve Scott is a little more difficult: he is such a nice bloke. "As good as gold," you might say, if you didn't mean "as good as silver". For Scott, the United States mile for the past eight years, is the eternal runner-up when it comes to the really big races. And the man in front of him has always been British.

It was Ovett, from 1977 until 1980, then it was Coe. When illness and injury slowed the British Olympic champions, Scott was able to record victories over both of them; but when the American got to the finish line in the world 1,500 metres championship last year, Cram was already a couple of strides beyond it.

Despite Cram's current injuries, he is still the man Scott most fears. "If Cram arrives in Los Angeles, that means he's fit. He won't come here to get blown away in a heat," Scott said last night, after he finished his Olympic preparation with an unimpressive third place in an 800 metres 1min 46.73sec, at Walnut, 30 miles east of Los Angeles.

Scott thinks that the rest of the world have caught up with the British mile. "Hardly anyone is thinking about Coe and Ovett any more. They are just faces in the crowd. Any one of eight finalists could win."

Scott is certainly underestimating Ovett's current form, but that is largely due to him being a member of a nation with the best information technology in the world, but with a lack of who is going on outside their own borders. Sydney Maree, Scott's colleague, even came to Oslo last week unaware that the man who is probably the biggest threat in the 1,500 metres, Said Aouita, of Morocco, had run by far the fastest time of the year a month previously.

Scott, aged 28, began his career paying lip service to the American trait of talking oneself to victory before the event.

## Results from Walnut

1000m: 1. G. Smith (US) 10.11sec, 2. M. Williams (US) 10.28, 3. L. Morales (PR) 10.38, 4. J. Williams (US) 10.45, 5. R. Armstrong (US) 10.55, 6. J. Williams (US) 10.55, 7. J. Williams (US) 10.55, 8. J. Williams (US) 10.55, 9. J. Williams (US) 10.55, 10. J. Williams (US) 10.55.

1000m: 1. M. Ovett (UK) 121.01, 2. D. Williams (US) 11.11, 3. G. Jackson (UK) 11.28, 4. J. Williams (US) 11.31, 5. E. Lawrence (US) 11.31, 6. J. Williams (US) 11.31, 7. J. Williams (US) 11.31, 8. J. Williams (US) 11.31, 9. J. Williams (US) 11.31, 10. J. Williams (US) 11.31.

# US rivals rock the boat in row over single-handed spot

By Barry Pickthall

While the British Olympic yachting squad have spent the past month quietly preparing for the seven-race Olympic regatta which starts off Long Beach, California, next Tuesday, a bizarre controversy has been swirling in the United States team as to who should represent the host nation in the Finn single-handed class.

But the matter still has not been resolved yesterday despite an all-night sitting by the US Arbitration Board on Wednesday night which was intended to give a final ruling to the US Olympic committee.

The argument revolves around the last race of the US Olympic Finn selection trials held in May and the behaviour of Russell Silvestri from California, who won the series on points.

At the start of the tenth and final heat Silvestri held a 17-point lead over the former Finn Gold medalist, but he was disqualified for a technical breach of the rules. The US Olympic committee, who had to win the last race to clinch the series.

Silvestri's tactics, which he discussed quite openly with journalists the evening before, were to cover his principal rival from the outset and if possible to sail him down the fleet, thus denying him any chance of winning the series - a tactic which displayed at championships in Britain.

"And that is exactly what the young Californian did, crossing the line before the gun to gain a weather advantage over the former world champion and then blanketing his wind up the fleet."

On his return to the States, Silvestri was stripped of his Olympic place for gross unsportsmanlike behaviour.

The change to the points table gave the series and Olympic berth

not to Bertrand, however, who was not a redress for his low position in the race, but to Buzz Reynolds, 22, from New Jersey, who finished the final heat in second place.

Bertrand returned to the protest room claiming that he should be given average points after being materially prejudiced by Silvestri's behaviour. This the race committee agreed, placing Bertrand at the top of the points table and giving him the Olympic nomination.

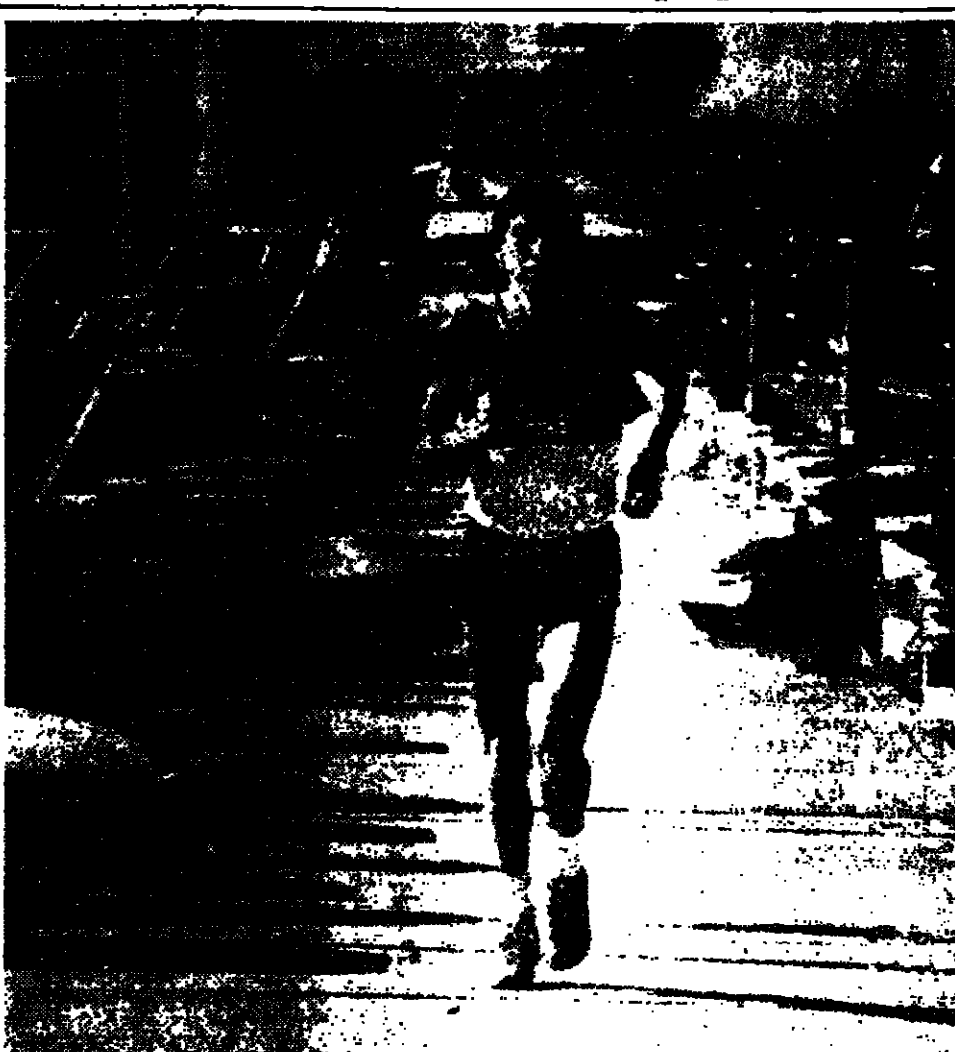
This was by no means an end to the matter, for Silvestri then took his case to court, arguing that he had been unfairly treated by the ruling that, far from Silvestri being in the wrong, it was the race committee that had transgressed in not disqualifying a general recall when Californian was judged to have been over the line.

With this decision, Silvestri was awarded his Olympic place back and the US Olympic committee, who had been told by the US Olympic committee that he was still in possession of the Olympic dinghy which he had named in . . . Out, filed an appeal and it is the outcome of this hearing, expected late yesterday afternoon, that will settle the six-week argument.

Before this controversy began the Americans were expected to make a formidable challenge for the Finn Gold Medal, but the succession of court hearings has severely shaken into their practice time and dulled their competitive edge - which is good news for the other sailors, in particular Britain's Mike McIntyre, the European champion.

## OLYMPIC GAMES

## US athletes make final preparations



On the boardwalk: Away from the smog of Los Angeles David Moorcroft samples the purer air of San Diego as he runs along the marina in training (photograph: Ian Stewart).

# Old Guard of the New World can spread their water wings

From Athole Still

With the possible exception of gymnastics, the Olympic swimming events for women will suffer most from the non-participation of the countries of Eastern Europe. The magnificent competitors from Germany have proved to be all but invincible in recent years, and judging by the 1984 world rankings, seemed certain to win at least eight of the 14 events, probably achieving 1-2 placings in five of them.

Moreover, even in the remaining six events, they are only fractionally behind the leaders, so that one could legitimately consider the possibility that their characteristic super-conditioning for major championships would have lifted them to repeat their tally of 11 gold medals at both Montreal and Moscow.

The field is now left open for the Americans, who head the rankings in six events, a commendable achievement which may at first sight make the above hypothetical medal projection for the absentees East Germans seem somewhat unwelcome to the host nation. But whereas the Americans are relying largely on an old guard, most of whom swam very successfully as long ago as the world championships on 1978, the current crop of Germans are all of much more recent vintage and were therefore more likely to improve.

Hypothese that, based strictly on the present entry at Los Angeles, the American girls will undoubtedly rule the pool as well as probably be demonstrated on Sunday in the 100 metres freestyle, the first final of the twentieth Olympic Games.

This should be a cracking race between Nancy Hogshead, her team colleague Michelle Richardson, and American swimmer Versteppen, and although both of the Dutch girls have more natural talent than either American, the experience and toughness of Hogshead will probably prevail over van Bentum.

Until last season June Croft, of Wigan, the Commonwealth champion, had the flag and pace to challenge for a medal in this company, but her performances this year strongly indicate that her best chance, and indeed the British team's best chance of a gold, will be in the 200 and 400 metres, for which she stands top-ranked.

Her coach, Keith Bewley, although inexplicably not a member of the official British party, despite having six of his Wigan club in the team, arrived in Los Angeles on Tuesday to assist with Miss Croft's final preparation and particularly with her immediate pre-race

concentration, which has sometimes let her down in the past.

"I have no doubt that June has the ability to win the 200", he said. "But we have to get her in the right frame of mind. She'll cause the Americans some problems in the 400 also." This latter event should go to the young American, Tiffany Cohen, who on paper has three seconds in hand over Miss Croft. But the British girl has been undefeated at this distance for more than a year, and if her improved endurance can keep her in contact with the leaders until the closing stages, then no one will be able to contain her sprint finish.

Cohen, closely followed by her team colleague Michelle Richardson, remains favourite for the 800 metres freestyle, but it is not inconceivable that the constantly improving Sarah Hardcastle, from Southern Ireland, could close the existing six-second gap between the Americans and herself.

Realistically, however, Miss Hardcastle should take the bronze medal, for she herself stands six seconds clear of Jolanda van Meer, the next ranked competitor. Indeed, that could prove to be a second bronze for Miss Hardcastle, for she is fourth-ranked in the 400 metres individual medley, in which she competes on the opening day on Sunday, and she is improving even more dramatically in this event.

The backstroke events seem destined for a special place in Olympic history, for the gold and silver medals over 100 and 200 metres should go in whatever order to Carmen Bunaciuc and Anca Petruscu, of Romania, a country who have never before won an Olympic medal of any kind in the aquatic events.

Miss Croft: sprint finish

Miss Meagher: variable form

Tomorrow: Preview of the men's events

Britain have had an undistinguished record on this stroke in recent years but in the 16-year-old Katherine Reed, of Norwich, we have at last found a real talent for the future and she is capable of competing honourably in the longer final.

Still in an historical context, it would be pleasing and fitting if both breaststroke events were to follow the present form-line and bring a double victory to the 15-year-old Hiroko Nagasaki, Japan have not won a gold medal since Nobuta Taguchi took the 100 metres breaststroke in Munich in 1972, but it was Japanese swimmers who shocked the Americans at this very venue in 1972, by winning an unexpected six gold medals.

Mary Meagher and Tracy Caulkins will annex for the US the butterfly and individual medley events respectively, as their best form places them well clear of the nearest challengers, who are all American in any case.

Even the East Germans have failed to threaten the several world records which Miss Meagher set in 1980 and 1981, and although her form since then has been variable, she deserves compensation for the two gold medals which the boycott assuredly deprived her in Moscow.

Miss Caulkins, who as a 15-year-old won five gold medals at the world championships in Berlin in 1978, has made an astonishing comeback over the past year and could end up with four gold medals here. Apart from the individual medley, she also swims in the 100 metres breaststroke and could beat Nagasaki.

Miss Croft: sprint finish

Miss Meagher: variable form

Tomorrow: Preview of the men's events

## COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● **RADIANT METAL FINISHING**: First and final dividend 1.5p (1p) for year to February 1984. Turnover £660,830 (£668,960). Trading profit £16,501 (loss £16,567). Other income £38,404 (£66,277). Profit on realisation of 93,489 shares £102,713. Tax 35 (17). Earnings per share 2.3p (1.27p).

● **SILVERMINES** has disposed of its 15 per cent interest in Berkeley Exploration and Production. The company was approached by a party interested in building up a substantial holding in Berkeley through the acquisition of the Silvermines shares. The company, which has 1,330,700 shares in Berkeley, (14.99 per cent) has been sold to this party for £2,066,445 or £1.35 per share.

● **MOUNT CHARLOTTE INVESTMENT**: Twenty-eight weeks to July. Figures in £000. Turnover 18,976 (11,523). Gross profit 3,268 (4,225). Trading profit 4,645 (2,305). Interest 1,115 (904). Pre-tax profit 3,530 (1,401). Minorities 3,528 (1,399). Shares unchanged at 52.

● **UNITED COMPUTER AND HOLDINGS**: Dividend 1.25p (1.1p) and special dividend 0.71p (nil) making 1.96p (1.1p) for year to March 31. Figures in £000. Total income 195 (119). Pre-tax profit 33,221. After interest and expenses 838 (758). Tax 186 (151). Earnings per share 0.65p (0.46p). Shares 165 up 3.

● **EDINBURGH AMERICAN ASSET TRUST**: Six months to June 30. Figures in £000. Revenue 1,285 (1,090). Pre-tax revenue 447 (332). After interest and expenses 838 (758). Tax 186 (151). Earnings per share 0.65p (0.46p). Shares 165 up 3.

● **AERONAUTICAL AND GEN INSTRUMENTS**: Dividend 5p (4.5p) for year to March 31. Turnover £12,957,015 (£12,982,512). Pre-tax profit £1,021,297 (£1,087,182). Tax £325,726 (£467,594). Earnings per share 17.2p (15.37p). Shares 235 up 3.

● **MILLETTS LEISURE SHOPS**: The company has exchanged with Wakefield Stores (Midlands) to acquire most of Wakefield's retail outlets and trading stocks. The agreement takes effect from September 3.

● **HABITAT MOTHERCARE**: The chairman says that although trading remains difficult in France, and in common with other companies clothing sales in Britain have at times been a little duller than the company had hoped, overall group profits to date have been very satisfactory. Shares 274 up 8.

● **HAVERLOCK EUROPE**: Directors expect to declare interim dividend payable in January. Turnover over 53 weeks to April 20. Pre-tax profit 95 (44) but including interest 49. Tax 253 (177). Shareholders' debt 144 (101) being 100 (75) ordinary shares and 44 (26) deferred tax provision. Earnings per share before extraordinary items 4.49p (2.87p).

● **CADBUURY SCHWEPES AUSTRALIA**: Twenty-four weeks to June 16. Figures in £000. Sales 1,674,344 (1,474,635). Net profit after tax but before extraordinary items 10,020 (8,343). Cadbury shares 118p up 2.

● **600 GROUP**: Chairman, Sir Jack Wellings, told the annual meeting that the company's order books are still growing, both at home and overseas, and that trading profits for first quarter on target and in line with forecasts. The companies in scrap and machine tools are experiencing similar improvements, especially machine tools in the USA. Shares 76 up 2.

● **M AND G DUAL TRUST**: Six months to June 30. Interim dividend 11.6p (10p) payable on September 4. Figures in £000. Gross revenue 960.5 (821). Tax 288 (247). Earnings per share 11.69p (10p). Directors forecast a final dividend of at least 13.5p for year 1984 making 25.1p (23.25p).

● **ARMITAGE & RHODES**: Turnover year to March 31, £9,598,822 (£7,836,633). Operating profit £224,440 (£22,941). Pre-tax profit £240,982 (loss £67,021). Dividend 2p (1p).

● **C P HEATH** has acquired the whole issued share capital of Peter Francis & Co (Insurance brokers) which carries on a Hertfordshire based insurance brokers business.

## EVANS OF LEEDS PLC

PROPERTY INVESTMENT GROUP

Group results for the year to 31st March, 1984

- ★ Profits increase to £4.3m from £3.9m.
- ★ Total shareholders' funds now £34,835m.
- ★ Dividend increased to 3.00p from 2.625p per share.

COMPARATIVE FIGURES	1984	1983
Net revenue before tax	4,301,880	3,904,059
Shareholders' funds	34,835,004	32,494,445
Dividends: Paid and proposed	3.00p	2.625p
Earnings per 25p share	7.107p	5.866p



















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*(Continued from page 60)*







## Ex-secret service men to press for inquiry

By Peter Hennessy

A group of about a dozen retired senior intelligence officers, wishing to see a high-level inquiry into the performance of the secret services since 1945 and wishing to give evidence to it in camera, will shortly be approaching ministers and select committee chairmen to press their case.

The retired officers, several of whom were involved in the extensive but inconclusive hunt for Soviet "moles" in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, believe the inquiry should go beyond the problem of penetration and examine the structure and efficiency of MI5, the Security Service, and MI6, the Secret Intelligence Service.

Some say that there should be a royal commission on the intelligence services chaired by a figure with a stature of Lord Franks, the former ambassador to Washington, who conducted the Falklands inquiry in 1982. They would want it to take evidence in private and to produce a report, parts of which might be made public.

The officers, who are not yet prepared to speak on the record, have decided to press for an inquiry after the initiative taken by Mr Peter Wright, a retired MI5 official. In the past two weeks he has reopened the case of the late Sir Roger Hollis, former director-general of the Security Service, who in 1981 was cleared by Mrs Thatcher of allegations that he had spied for the Soviet Union.

They also believe that the time is ripe for an inquiry as the present director-general of MI5 will step down early next year after the completion of the Security Commission inquiry into the case of Michael Betanczy, the young MI5 officer who was jailed this year for trying to spy for the KGB.

The retired officers believe the agenda of an inquiry should include:

- A review of anti-penetration procedures.
- The possible merger of at least the counter-intelligence sections of MI5 and MI6.
- The possibility of recruiting outsiders to head the secret services with a substantial upgrading of status.
- A review of recruitment with a view to attracting more experienced people in their thirties.
- The need for a parliamentary watchdog to monitor the budgets and general policies, though not the operations, of the secret services.

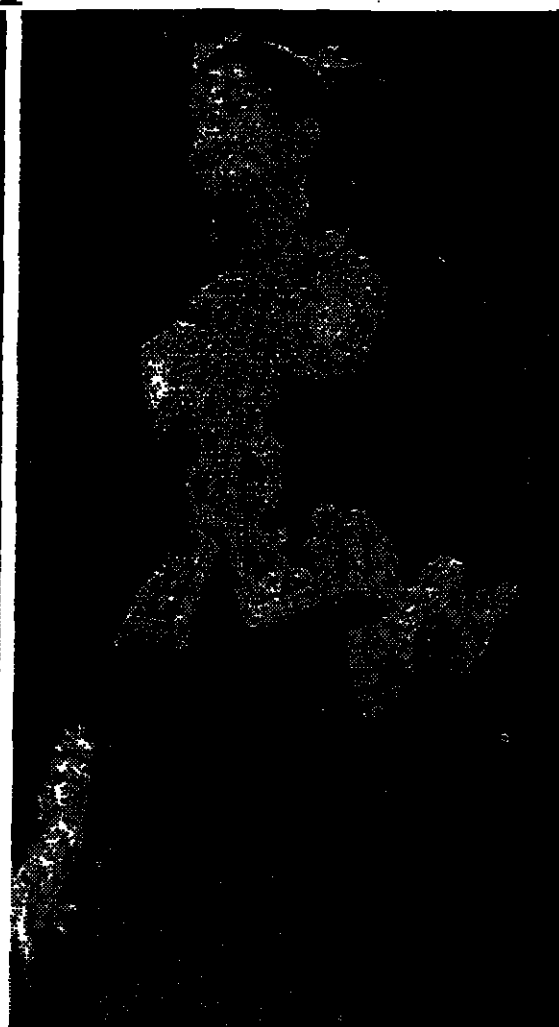
## Paris couture to match the petro-dollars



Dior... abstract in jet



Chanel... Tssary nights



Saint Laurent... beads and embroidery

Lavish jewelled embroideries encrusted on velvet and inspired by fine art produced a glittering Paris fashion season (Suzanne Menkes, Fashion Editor, writes). Petro-dollar patrons have brought new life to the couture collections which are now celebrated as an orgy of opulence.

Abstract patterns splashed in jet in the style of the painter Jackson Pollock were featured by Dior (left), along with more traditional glamour like puffed sleeves and lamé.

Yves Saint Laurent (right) showed "canon" stitched in relief out of tiny beads and surrounded by elaborate gilded embroideries resembling rococo furniture. Jean-Louis Scherrer looked to Venice for encrusted mosaics in jewel colours and then moved to the East for paisley patterns.

The most baroque decorations appeared at Chanel (centre), where the new designer Karl Lagerfeld recreated the elaborate Romanov furniture and then embellished the "Tssary" Russian orders in embroidery.

The fantastic embroideries are the creations of the Paris firm of François Lesage.

## Coal industry insolvent, Walker tells Commons

Continued from page 1

charges £364m and taxation £7m to give a total of £371m.

The miners' dispute, which began at a point when production was at record levels, affected the NCB investment programme with £394m being spent on important colliery projects, and total spending on mining being £691m, compared with £826m in 1982-83.

Mr Ian MacGregor, the NCB chairman, said in a statement yesterday: "The NCB's financial performance was severely affected by the overtime ban imposed by the NUM in November and the subsequent strikes, and the major increase in subsidence costs which emerged late in the year."

"Prior to the overtime ban the industry was achieving record levels of productivity. By week 32 overall revenue output per manshift was just over 5 per cent higher than the previous year planned annual improvement envisaged in the Plan for Coal."

The NCB report shows that the subsidence costs mentioned by Mr MacGregor added £113m to the NCB losses, almost half that directly attributable to industrial action at £212m.

Mr MacGregor said yesterday that although the financial results indicated the scale of the problem facing the NCB the underlying trends were encouraging.

Stockpile of trouble, page 19

Mr Walker: £1.3 billion in support by the taxpayer.

## MPs criticize security at military bases

Continued from page 1

century, it must now start to reverse that process", the report says.

It calls on the Government to exempt MoD police from all manpower cuts or ceilings imposed on MoD civil servants over the next five years. Break-ins have been unacceptable frequent and the MPs call for lasting improvements in security at such bases. In particular special fencing and intruder alarm systems costing several million pounds should be installed at Greenham Common and other nuclear bases, the MPs say.

The committee takes the unusual step of issuing a clear warning that if the findings it has identified are not remedied it may reopen its inquiry, taking evidence in public.

The sweeping criticisms by the House of Commons Defence Committee are likely to lead to an increase in the size of the Ministry of Defence police

(our Defence Correspondent writes).

Already some additional recruiting is taking place, but a ministerial decision would be needed to increase the official ceiling on numbers. Since 1979 the number of MoD police has fallen from 4,171 to 3,938, which is about 300 below the official establishment figure.

The formal ministry response to the criticisms will be made in due course. However, Mr Heseltine yesterday announced moves to improve security at the Royal Ordnance Factory at Enfield. He said that the number of MoD police there was being raised to the highest level for a decade.

The ROF's offer immense attractions to terrorists or extremist groups and existing levels of security should be enhanced, the report says.

House of Commons, Second report from the Defence Committee. The Physical Security of Military Installations in the UK. HMSO, £4.15.

## Official Lebanese backing for attacks on Israelis

From Robert Fisk, Damascus

Just a day after forcing the closure of Israel's diplomatic office outside Beirut, Mr Rashid Karami, the Lebanese Prime Minister, yesterday gave official encouragement to the guerrillas who are attacking and killing Israeli troops in southern Lebanon.

In an interview with *The Times* conducted on board his passenger jet as it flew high above the Syrian coastline en route to Damascus - Mr Karami said that his Government "respected very highly" all those who opposed Israel's occupation army, and confirmed that his Cabinet was considering making cash donations to the families of those who died in guerrilla attacks on the Israelis.

"It is the right of anyone to occupy his land," he said. "We want to see the Israeli withdrawal as quickly as possible."

Dressed in an immaculate white suit and navy-blue tie, the bespectacled 62-year-old Prime Minister was in ebullient mood in the first-class cabin of his Middle East Airlines jet as it began its descent towards the country that all along supported his candidacy for Prime Minister and the destruction of all official Lebanese links with Israel.

"Syria," Mr Karami said, "can now do so much to help us in bringing security to Lebanon, especially with her friends." Who these friends were he did not explain.

The closure of the Israeli "liaison" office in Dbyayn on Wednesday was clearly being celebrated in Damascus yesterday.

Mr Karami described the closure as a duty on behalf of "our people", while Mr Abdul Rauf Kassar, the Syrian Prime Minister, said publicly that the shutting down of the bureau was "a great victory" for Lebanon. It was natural, he went on, that Mr Karami should come to Damascus because although Lebanon and Syria were separate states "we feel we are one people".

Mr Karami had travelled to Damascus to obtain Syrian help in extending the control of the Lebanese Government Army to the Chouf Mountains, whose Druze inhabitants are more susceptible to Syria's persuasion than to that of their own Government.

Mr Kassar promised that Syria would "support Lebanon to the end" and oppose anyone

who tried to obstruct the country's reconstruction. Mr Karami, however, is himself not a robust man. He speaks slowly and was forced at least once during his discussion with Syrian leaders here to leave the conference room to rest for half an hour. But he speaks with some resolution. He wanted good relations, he told me, with both America and the Soviet Union, because Lebanon's future could only rest on a policy of non-alignment.

When I asked him if it was true that his cabinet was considering providing money for the families of guerrillas killed in southern Lebanon, he replied: "This is a matter that we are discussing. We haven't yet made a decision. We haven't yet decided on our attitude towards the south (of Lebanon). We are now discussing how to help anyone there who needs our assistance."

His hesitation - although Mr Karami did not say so - arises from the objections of his right-wing Christian coalition ministers, especially Mr Pierre Gemayel, the Phalangist party leader, who is minister of health.

The phalangite opposes any more measures against the Israelis - it was the most Mr Karami could do to persuade them to accept the closure of the Dbyayn office - and they have no desire to align themselves with the Prime Minister's anti-Israeli sentiment.

When I pointed out to Mr Karami that Phalangists and Druze were still fighting in the mountains above Beirut and that gunmen could still be seen on the streets of the capital, he insisted that his security plan would work.

"Where there is a will, there is a way. As you say, in the mountains there is still fighting, but just as we succeeded in stopping the fighting in Beirut, we have great hopes of succeeding in the (Chouf) mountains too."

After talks yesterday with President Assad of Syria, Mr Karami appealed for a ceasefire in the north Lebanese city of Tripoli - his home town - in which 21 people were killed and 82 wounded in factional street-fighting on Wednesday night.

Syria has up to 40,000 troops occupying northern and eastern Lebanon, although none of them are inside Tripoli. By yesterday evening the fighting had died down.

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

#### Royal engagements

Princess Anne, president of the British Olympic Association, who will attend the Olympic Games at Los Angeles, leaves Gatwick airport at 12.45.

Princess Margaret, grand president of the John Ambulance Association and Brigade, attends the "After and Race" party at Cumberland Lodge, The Great Park, Windsor in aid of St John Ambulance in Berkshire, 6.30.

Prince Michael of Kent takes the

salute at the Farewell Band Display by the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Band Corps, at Camberley, 9.00 pm.

#### New Exhibitions

Watercolours by Alexander Beaumont Rooke, The Museum, 41 Long St, Devizes, Wilt; Tues to Sat 11 to 1 and 2 to 5, Sun and Mon closed, (ends Sept 29).

Durer prints from the Chester Beatty Library, Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 1 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, (ends Sept 9).

The Glasgow Style 1890-1920,

Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, (ends Oct 7).

English Landscape Over Two Centuries, New Gallery, 9 Fore St, Exeter, Devon, 10 to 5, Tues to Sat, (ends Sept 8).

General

Festival of Flowers, St Andrew's Church, Colyton, ex Devon, today to Monday, 10.

Border Union Agriculture Show, Springwood Park, Kelso, from 9.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Caribbean Development Bank (Further Payments) Order.

Anniversaries

Births: Johann Bernoulli, mathematician, Basel, 1667; Sir George Midgley, astronomer royal 1835-8; Albrecht, Northumbrian, 1801; Giose Carducci, poet, Nobel laureate 1906; Val di Castello, Italy, 1835; Enriquetta Gramscis, pianist and composer, Lérida, Spain, 1867; Hilare Beloe, La Celle - Saint-Cloud, 1870.

Deaths: John Dalton, chemist and physicist, Manchester, 1844; Ferruccio Busoni, Berlin, 1924; Gertrude Steia, Paris, 1946.

Health Line

The consumer's health group, the College of Health launched its Health Line this week. It gives medical advice by telephone. We gave the London number (01-980 4848, 6 pm to 10 pm) and now add: Exeter (0392) 39191; and Gloucester (0452) 503655, 8 to 8 pm.

Top films

The top box-office films in London:

- (1) Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom
- (2) (-) Super Girl
- (3) Splish
- (4) Police Academy
- (5) Another Country
- (6) Reuben, Reuben
- (7) Beat Street
- (8) The Fourth Man
- (9) The Return of Martin Guerre
- (10) Greyhound: The Legend of Tarzan

The top films in the provinces

- (1) Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom
- (2) Star Wars/Empire/Jedi
- (3) Herbie Rides Again
- (4) Friday The 13th/The Final Chapter
- (5) Police Academy

Supplied by Screen International

Top video rentals

- (1) An Officer and a Gentleman
- (2) Never Say Never Again
- (3) Christmas
- (4) Porphy's II - The Next Day
- (5) Spacehunter - Forbidden Zone
- (6) Airplane II - The Sequel
- (7) Psycho II
- (8) Class
- (9) Raiders of the Lost Ark
- (10) (-) Armistice III

Supplied by Video Business

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### Food prices

Supplies and prices of imported fruits that were affected by the dock strike have now returned to normal and prices have dropped quickly in price, are good value. Sweet grapes from Cyprus are down to 55p a lb. Apricots, cherries and plums are back to normal and peaches and nectarines, having been down from 75p each, to rival increasing numbers of plums and hedges from Spain.

The pick-your-own season is in full swing with tremendous variety in all the homegrown soft fruits. Thanks to new techniques and strains, the strawberry season now runs right through to October, and raspberries will last throughout August. P-p-o strawberries this week are about 35p a lb, raspberries 45p, and currants from 30p.

There are bargains in homegrown vegetables too, though french beans are having a struggle up the sticks as a result of this year's drought. Cabbages, cauliflowers and new potatoes are plentiful and inexpensive and there are excellent supplies of celery, cucumbers, radishes and spring onions for the school holiday salads. Tomatoes have returned to normal for the time of year, at 45 to 55p a lb, and the quality is good. Courgettes (20-25p a lb at farm shops) are starting to become plentiful and will soon be about in abundance.

The apple crop will start this week with Grenadier cookers first into the shops.

Meat prices are generally steady. Beef topside and silverside for roasting may be cheaper in some areas, but steaks are firm and pork chops ideal for barbecuing range from £1 to £1.40 a pound. RY

Portfolio rules

Times Portfolio rules are as follows:

- 1 Times Portfolio is free. Purchase of The Times Portfolio is not required.
- 2 Times Portfolio is a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange.
- 3 The Portfolio is divided into four groups of ten shares (1-10, 11-20, 21-30 and 31-40) and every Portfolio card contains ten numbers from each group.
- 4 Three Times Portfolio "dividend" will be the figure in pence which represents the optimum movement in price (i.e., largest increase or lowest loss) of a combination of eight (two from each group) of the 40 shares which on any day, comprises The Times Portfolio.
- 5 The daily dividend will be announced each day and the weekly dividend will be announced on Friday in The Times.
- 6 Times Portfolio cards are available for inspection at the offices of The Times.
- 7 If the overall price movement of the shares in the Portfolio exceeds the dividend, the price will be equally divided among the shares holding these combinations of shares.
- 8 All shares are subject to scrutiny before payment. Any Times Portfolio card that is defective, compared with or incorrectly printed in any way will be declared void.
- 9 Employees of News International plc and its subsidiaries and of European Group Limited (publishers and distributors of the card) or members of their immediate families are not allowed to play Times Portfolio.
- 10 All participants will be subject to these Rules and the instructions on how to play and "how to claim" wherever published in The Times or in Times Portfolio cards will be deemed to be part of these Rules.
- 11 In any dispute, the Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 12 If for any reason The Times Portfolio is not published in the normal way, Times Portfolio will be suspended for that day.

How to play - Daily dividend

On each day your unique set of eight numbers will represent commercial and industrial shares published in The Times Portfolio but which will appear on the Stock Exchange prices page.

Portfolio - how to play

Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.

Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.

If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money stated for that week and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim

Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0254-63272 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, on the day you want to claim. The Times Portfolio claims line will be open outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

Some Times Portfolio cards include minor errors in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalidated.

The wording of Rules 2 and 3 has been corrected from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The same change will be made to the card which will be played in exactly the same way as before.

Rules will appear again in Friday's paper.

### Roads

Middlesex: M4 All traffic sharing one carriageway. Junction 3 (Cove North) and Junction 4 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 5 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 6 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 7 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 8 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 9 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 10 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 11 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 12 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 13 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 14 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 15 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 16 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 17 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 18 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 19 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 20 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 21 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 22 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 23 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 24 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 25 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 26 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 27 (M42/Birmingham) closed. Junction 28 (M42/Birmingham) closed. 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